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MEMOIRS of the LIFE of the Reverend Dr HUGH BLAIR.

THE life of a literary man, employed in cultivating the powers of his taſte and his underſtanding, or of a clergyman inſtructing his people in the duties of religion and virtue, cannot afford much matter for the hiſtorian or biographer. If, indeed, we could penetrate into the retirement of this elegant author, and could trace the ſteps by which his taſte and genius have aſcended to that eminence on which we now behold them placed, we might be able to lay before our readers much matter of inſtruction and entertainment. But as that is not permitted to us, they muſt be content with theſe few facts.

Dr Blair is the ſon of a reſpectable clergyman in the Church of Scotland; and having himſelf made choice of the ſame profeſſion, he was ordained to the pariſh of Colleſſie in Fifeſhire, in the year 1743. The fame of his preaching, which even ſo early as that began to be known, did not allow him to continue long there; in a few months after his ordination, he was tranſlated to the Canongate church at Edinburgh. He remained there till 1752, when he was preſented to the church of Lady Yeſter, and in 1758 was preferred to the Metropolitan or High Church. His early introduction into Edinburgh, the ſeat of an univerſity, and the reſort of many learned men, afforded him an excellent opportunity of purſuing thoſe literary objects, which almoſt from his earlieſt youth he appeared to have in view.

Accordingly, about this period (1758) he began to open a claſs for rhetoric and belles lettres, and read there the firſt ſketch of thoſe lectures which are now preſented to the public; theſe were ſo well received, that the year following (1759) he was created the firſt Regius Profeſſor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in the Univerſity of Edinburgh.

His firſt publication was a criticiſm on Oſſian, in which, with great juſtneſs, he has applied the rules of that ſcience to that antient poem, and pointed out thoſe beauties which are ſo ſtrongly marked with the characters of antiquity. In 1777, he publiſhed the firſt volume of thoſe ſermons, which are ſo juſtly admired by every one whoſe devotion is guid-

ed by reaſon, or accompanied by taſte. The approbation of the public was ſignified by the rapid ſale of this book, and that of a great perſonage, (the Queen) by a teſtimony no leſs unequivocal, a grant to Dr Blair of a penſion of 200l. per annum. The ſecond volume of his ſermons appeared ſoon after, and certainly has not deceived the high expectations which were formed of it.

The clergy of Scotland have long been divided into two parties: The one has ſought for popular favour, by cheriſhing thoſe ſentiments of bigotry and fanaticiſm, to which the people here are ſo unhappily diſpoſed: The other have uniformly endeavoured to check or eradicate thoſe ſentiments, and to eſtabliſh the principles of rational and moderate religion in their place.

In this party Dr Robertſon, for many years, has taken the lead, and by his abilities and eloquence, has contributed more than any one to the effecting of their great object. It is but juſtice to Dr Blair to ſay, that though he has never been a ſpeaker in the national aſſemblies of the church, he has ever acted in conjunction with his learned and reſpectable friend, and, with great ſteadineſs, has maintained the principles of moderation.

In this manner then has Dr Blair's life been ſpent, affording few materials for hiſtory, though abounding in employment honourable to himſelf, and uſeful to the world. He has been employed in diffuſing taſte and the love of elegant literature through his country; in maintaining the peace and juſtice of its eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhment, and in enforcing the precepts of Chriſtianity, not more by the powers of his eloquence, than by the purity of his manners. Such has been the buſineſs of his life, and his ſucceſs has been proportioned to the ability and diligence he has exerted in it; he has purchaſed immortality to himſelf, while he has been uſeful to the world, and will continue to pleaſe and inſtruct mankind, as long as they poſſeſs either taſte or virtue, that is, as long as they are worthy of being pleaſed, or capable of being inſtructed.

It may be proper to mention, that Dr Blair has ever lived in the ſtricteſt friendſhip with the moſt remarkable of his countrymen. Dr Robertſon, Dr Ferguſon, Dr Smith, and the late Lord Kames, have been his particular friends.

He has ever been of a character ſo truly moderate, that, though poſſeſſing the full confidence of his friends, he has been very little obnoxious to his opponents, and has born his faculties ſo meekly, that even the *odium theologicum* has found nothing to take note on.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

COPY of a LETTER from the Duke of RICHMOND to Lieutenant-Colonel SHARMAN, *Chairman of the Committee of Correſpondence at* Belfaſt.

[*Concluded from our laſt*, p. 203.]

IT has been ſaid that the plan of extending the right of voting to every individual creates much uneaſineſs in the minds of quiet and well-diſpoſed perſons, and that if paupers, vagabonds, and other perſons of no property were left out, there would be no objection to extend it to all houſe-keepers and perſons paying taxes, and that the ſame diviſion into diſtricts might take place.—My anſwer is, that I know of no man, be he ever ſo poor, who, in his conſumption of food, and uſe of raiment, does not pay taxes, and that I would wiſh to encourage an enthuſiaſm for his country in the breaſt of every ſubject, by giving him his juſt ſhare in its government. I readily admit ſuch an alteration would be a vaſt improvement, but I muſt prefer the

adhering rigidly to a ſelf-evident principle, eſpecially when attended with no inconvenience in the execution, that I can foreſee. Beſides, we ſhould again fall into the difficulties of drawing the line of ſeparation, and into the diſputes about the qualification.

The apprehenſions that our government will become too democratic, have been urged upon another ground. It has been ſaid that the Houſe of Commons have uſurped the whole power of government; that the Crown in reality no longer poſſeſſes its negative, and muſt in all things be ruled by the Houſe of Commons; that the Houſe of Lords, in conſequence of its excluſion (by the will of the Houſe of Commons, not by law) from interfering in money bills, no longer in fact exerciſes the functions of a branch of the legiſlature; that the only means by which the balance of the conſtitution is now in any degree preſerved, is by the irregular influence of the Crown, and of the Peers in the Houſe of Commons; and if they are totally excluded from interference there, as it is ſuppoſed will be the caſe if this bill paſſes, and are not reſtored to their original ſhare of power, the equilibrium will be deſtroyed, and the Government become democratic.

To remedy the objection, it has been anſwered by others, that it is but juſt and reaſonable, and that they mean, at the ſame time that the Commons are reſtored to their rights, that the Crown and the peers ſhould recover theirs.

This anſwer has been ridiculed in my opinion with more wit than ſolidity of argument. It has been repreſented as admitting, that whilſt the Houſe of Commons continues corrupt, the King and Lords ſhould ſubmit to its deciſions; but that when it ſhould really ſpeak the voice of the people, then it would be right to revive the dormant powers of reſiſting it.

For my part, I agree in opinion with thoſe who are for reſtoring to all parts of the State their juſt rights at the ſame time; to do it generally, not partially, is what I muſt contend for. At the ſame I admit that I am not for reſtoring the negative of the Crown; my reaſon is, that it appears to me prepoſterous that the will of one man ſhould for ever obſtruct every regulation which all the reſt of the nation may think neceſſary. I object to it, as I would to every other prerogative of the Crown, or privilege of the Lords or people, that is not founded on reaſon.

But I agree that if the Houſe of Commons was reduced to its natural dedence on the people alone, and the preſent ſyſtem of making it the executive part of government was continued, we ſhould approach to a pure democracy more than our conſtitution warrants, or than I wiſh to ſee. I am not for a democratic any more than for an ariſtocratic or monarchic government ſolely; I am for that admirable mixture of the three, that our inimitable and comprehenſive conſtitution has eſtabliſhed. I wiſh to ſee the executive part of government revert to where the conſtitution has originally placed it, in the hands of the Crown, to be carried on by its Miniſters;—thoſe Miniſters under the controul of parliament, and parliament under the controul of the people. I would not have parliament made, as it daily is, a party concerned in every act of ſtate, whereby it becomes the executive, for which it is not calculated, and loſes its ſuperintending and controuling powers, which is the main end of its inſtitution; for when the two Houſes are previouſly pledged by addreſſes, votes, and reſolutions, it becomes extremely difficult for them afterwards to cenſure meaſures in

which they have been ſo deeply engaged by acts of their own. Another great inconveniency ariſes from Parliament's taking ſo much of the executive of government on itſelf, which is the exceſſive length of the ſeſſions; an evil which of late has greatly increaſed. Now that parliament is engaged in every detail, in order to ſcreen the miniſter, it can never finiſh its buſineſs till the middle of ſummer, when the independent country gentleman, tired of a long attendance, and hot weather, in town, is retired to his private buſineſs in the country, and that of the public left to be ſettled in the houſes, by a few dependants of the miniſter. A ſhort ſeſſion of two or three months would be ſufficient to examine the expenditure of former grants, to make new ones, to redreſs grievances, and paſs ſuch general laws as circumſtances might require. ——— The inconveniency and expence to a private member of parliament in attending his duty would then be trifling; and inſtead of forty commoners and three peers to form a quorum to decide the greateſt matters of the ſtate, the attendance of two thirds of each body, which would give reſpect to their proceedings, might and ought to be required.

I am alſo free to own my opinion, that when the Houſe of Lords ſhall be effectually prevented from having any influence in the Houſe of Commons, as I think it muſt by this bill, it ſhould at the ſame time recover its equal rights in every reſpect with the Houſe of Commons, as a co-ordinate branch of the legiſlature.

Theſe ſentiments are, I think, conſonant to the idea ſo well expreſſed in your letter to the volunteer army of the province of Ulſter, "to reſtore to the Crown its original ſplendor, to nobility its ancient privileges, and to the nation at large its inherent rights."

I believe I have now troubled you with all that is neceſſary concerning my plan. My bill will ſhew the detail as far as concerns the Houſe of Commons, and the election of Scots Peers: the regulations for reſtoring to the Crown its executive, and to the Houſe of Lords its deliberative functions, ſhould be added to, and form a part of this bill; but I have not as yet had time and leiſure to prepare them.

In what I have ſaid, I have ſhewn my opinion concerning the 1ſt, 3d, 4th, 6th, and 8th, queſtions you have propoſed to me. There remains the 2d, 5th, and 7th, to be conſidered.

In reſpect to the ſecond, which I preſume relates to the admiſſion of Roman Catholics to vote at elections, I can only ſay, that the ſame principles which go to civil liberty, equally lead to liberty of conſcience. I admire with you the glorious ſpirit of toleration which you ſay has united the once diſtracted inhabitants of Ireland into one indiſſoluble maſs; and I am ſure that nothing ſhort of evident danger to the ſtate can warrant its interference in religious opinions. But unacquainted as I am with the ſtate of Ireland, it is impoſſible for me to know the preſent temper and diſpoſition of the Roman Catholics there; and thoſe only who are on the ſpot can judge how far excluſions of this ſort are neceſſary, or ought to extend.

With regard to the fifth queſtion, if voting by ballot is adviſeable? I am clearly of opinion that it is not. The idea of a ballot can have ariſen but to avoid the effect of ſome improper influence; and I conceive it much more noble, directly to check that influence, than indirectly to evade it by concealment and deceit.—I am convinced that trivial circumſtances in things like this tend greatly to form the national character; and that it is moſt conſiſtent with that of a Britiſh and Iriſh freeman, that all

his actions ſhould be open and avowed, and that he ſhould not be aſhamed of declaring in the face of his country whom he wiſhes to intruſt with its intereſts. Upon the ſame idea that ballots may be a cover for independence, they muſt alſo be a cloak for bribery, and a ſchool for lying and deceit.

As to the 7th queſtion, whether it would not be equitable or expedient that boroughs now in the poſſeſſion of individuals ſhould be purchaſed by the nation? I think, that although no man can have a ſtrict claim in equity to be refunded the loſs of what neither buyer nor ſeller had a right to barter, yet it will be wiſe to purchaſe the good-will, or at leaſt to ſoften the reſiſtance, of the preſent powerful poſſeſſors of boroughs by a moſt ample compenſation. The liberties of a nation cannot be bought too dear, but the whole coſt of theſe boroughs would not amount to the profits of one jobbing contract.

I have now anſwered all the queſtions you have been pleaſed to propoſe; but I muſt mention another advantage which ought to recommend the meaſures you are purſuing to every friend to the internal peace and quiet of the kingdom, which is, that when the people have obtained a regular, legal and ſpeedy way of giving effect to their ſentiments, there can no longer be any apprehenſion of their endeavouring to redreſs themſelves by mobs and tumults! and even ſuch regular and well conducted meetings as yours will become needleſs. I mention this circumſtance with the more ſatisfaction, as it ſtamps your conduct with the moſt unequivocal marks of diſintereſted patriotiſm. Power, when once acquired, is generally endeavoured to be preſerved by its poſſeſſors; but you, after having taken up yours from neceſſity, and employed it uſefully, are now endeavouring, with unexampled virtue, to render its continuance unneceſſary. For, great as your ſervices have been, in ſo ſoon forming a complete army, in the advantages you have procured for your country, in the good order you have preſerved, and in the efficacy you have given to law, you will deſerve ſtill greater credit, in my opinion, from your good ſenſe in ſeeing that a great military force, totally unconnected with the civil government, cannot be a permanent eſtabliſhment in a free country, whoſe firſt principle is, never to truſt abſolute power in any hands whatever. Your preſent endeavours to reſtore the conſtitution to its former purity and vigour evidently tend to make this and every extraordinary inſtitution unneceſſary; for when the people are fairly and equally repreſented in Parliament, when they have annual opportunities of changing their deputies, and through them of controuling every abuſe of Government, in a ſafe, eaſy, and legal way, there can be no longer reaſon for recurring to thoſe ever dangerous, though ſometimes neceſſary expedients of an armed force, which nothing but a bad Government can juſtify. Such a magnanimous end to your proceedings, when, after having reſtored liberty, commerce, and free government to your country, you ſhall voluntarily retire to the noble character of private citizens, peaceably enjoying the bleſſings you have procured, will crown your labours with everlaſting glory, and is worthy the genuine patriotic ſpirit which animates the Iriſh volunteers.

Before I conclude, I beg to expreſs a wiſh, that the mutually eſſential connection between Great Britain and Ireland may ſoon be ſettled on ſome liberal and fair footing.—— That which did ſubſiſt was on ſuch narrow and abſurd principles, that no friend to either kingdom can regret its loſs. Founded on conſtraint and dependence, incompatible with the condition of freemen, Ireland had

an indiſputable right to diſſolve it whenever ſhe choſe ſo to do. But ſurely, if we do not mean a total ſeparation, it would be right to agree upon ſome new terms by which we are to continue connected. I have always thought it for the intereſt of the two iſlands to be incorporated, and form one and the ſame kingdom, with the ſame legiſlature meeting ſometimes in Ireland as well as in England. But if there are difficulties to ſuch an union not to be got over at preſent, ſome ſort of *fœderal union* at leaſt between the two kingdoms ſeems neceſſary to aſcertain the many circumſtances that concern their joint intereſts; and an union of this ſort may now be formed with much greater propriety than before, as it will be ſanctified by the free conſent of independent nations.

I do conceive that ſome ſtep of this ſort is abſolutely neceſſary, becauſe the preſent footing of ſeparation, rather than union, is too unfair to be able long to ſubſiſt. England, beſides the load of the whole debt contracted for the uſe of both kingdoms, bears all the burdens of naval defence and foreign negotiations, and by far more than its proportion of the land ſervice in time of war. But what is worſe is, that there are no certainty now left that we ſhall have the ſame enemies and the ſame friends; different intereſts, as they may appear, may lead one kingdom to think a war neceſſary, and the other to remain in peace; the ſame king, in his different kingdoms, may think it wiſe to follow the advice of his reſpective parliaments. I need ſcarcely add, that the unavoidable conſequences of ſuch a difference are a war between the two kingdoms.

Unleſs ſome ſettlement take place upon theſe and many other important ſubjects, I am far from being clear that it will be for the advantage of liberty in either kingdom, that its monarch ſhould continue the Sovereign of a neighbouring State with which it has no connection. I am ſenſible that there are great difficulties attending the adjuſtment of ſuch an union, and that it requires great wiſdom and temper to form it, eſpecially on the part of Ireland, which muſt feel that ſhe ought to give the preponderance to Great Britain; but I am ſure the buſineſs ought not to be neglected, and that every true friend to both kingdoms ought to give it his moſt zealous aſſiſtance.

I beg pardon for having gone into a ſubject not immediately belonging to that upon which you have deſired my opinion; but I thought it ſo connected with it, and at the ſame time ſo important, that I truſt you will excuſe my having introduced it.

I fear I have been very long, but it was impoſſible for me to compreſs ſo much matter into a leſs compaſs; and, when you wiſh to have my opinion, I thought it beſt to give it fully, or at leaſt as fully as I could in a letter. If it contains one thought that can be uſeful, I ſhall be happy. I have only to aſſure the committee of the zeal I feel for the cauſe the volunteers have undertaken, to the ſupport of which I ſhall ever be ready to give every aſſiſtance in my power, and that it is with the higheſt reſpect and admiration of their conduct, that I have the honour to be their moſt obedient, and moſt humble ſervant,

RICHMOND, &c.

Aug. 15. 1783.

LETTERS to a YOUNG MAN *entering into the World.*

LETTER I.

DEAR SIR,

I BEG leave, by this letter, to call your attention to the conſideration and practice of *Modeſty*. I doubt not but you are acquainted with the definition of the term; I therefore mean more to enforce upon you the

practice of it, than directly to define it.

Modeſty is a virtue ſo ſuitable to *human nature*, and ſo excellent in *itſelf*, that whoever is diſtinguiſhed by it, in whatever period of life he may be in, is ſure to meet with general approbation and eſteem; and this is peculiarly the caſe, if he is in the *early* part of life. Man is a weak and an imperfect being. "*Humanum eſt errare.*" It is unſuitable to the nature of a being, whoſe actions are tarniſhed by *imperfection*, to have an uniform confidence in his own ſhallow intellects, to truſt entirely his own judgment and opinions, by ſhewing a contempt of the advice and help of others. On the contrary, for a being who feels his own weakneſs and imperfection, it is ingenuous, it is noble in him, to be diffident of himſelf, to ſolicit the advice of others, and to be open to conviction. This is his true and proper poſture. Modeſty gives a ſhade to his weakneſſes and errors. And if all this be true reſpecting man, however much improved, however much experienced, of whatever age or rank in life, how much more muſt it be true and applicable to him, when he is *unimproved* and *inexperienced*. But the pity is, that ignorance and inexperience are often the cauſes of obſtinacy and confidence. Young and ignorant people are not aware how much there is to learn, and they think they know every thing, when comparatively they know nothing. On the contrary, it has ever been obſerved, that the more *wiſe men* have known, they were of all the leaſt obſtinate and oſtentatious, the moſt cautious and open to conviction, becauſe a world of objects opens to their view, which lies hid from the ignorant.

"Were men to live coeval with the ſun,
"The Patriarch-pupil would be learning ſtill,
"Yet dying, leave his leſſon half unlearn'd."

A young man who poſſeſſes the inherent ſeeds of good ſenſe, ſhould endeavour to ſuppoſe himſelf in the character of a man of knowledge and experience, and then conſider in what view the crude, forward, and unformed ſentiments of a young man would appear to him, when ſet forth in oppoſition to his better judgment and more extenſive knowledge. They indeed would appear in contemptible colours. This would enable him to acquire a modeſt diſpoſition; prevent him from contradicting his ſuperiors; preſerve him in his true character, and incline him to offer his ſentiments more for his own improvement, than meaning to inſtruct others. For a young man to truſt chiefly his own judgment and opinions is reprehenſible; for him to have no opinion of his own is a weakneſs; for him to have no confidence in himſelf is an extreme alſo; this would in a great meaſure unfit him for the practice of the many duties of life, which are attended with difficulties; and moſt certainly would check that laudable and well directed ambition, which is the ſource of every brave and noble ſentiment and action. Adopt, therefore, the medium,—a *modeſt confidence* in yourſelf and your opinions, and you will do well.

I would farther recommend to you to exerciſe your ingenuity in diſtinguiſhing modeſty from an aukward baſhfulneſs. The former is ſhocked by all indecencies in *every ſituation*. The laſt is often unaccompanied by real modeſty, in which caſe, although in the company of ſuperiors, and dazzled with exterior elegance, it would be ſtruck with ſtupidity; yet, in *other ſituations*, could with deliberation and preſence of mind, depart from decency, and even the common refinements of humanity. True modeſty has a ſteady uniformity of character, always eaſy and unembarraſſed. There are, indeed, ſome very good modeſt men, who, through the effect of education, want of intercourſe with the world, and

a natural timidity of temper, cannot bring themſelves up to this happy uniformity of diſpoſition. And theſe may be on a par with the former in the duties of life, and the avoiding of indecencies; but you cannot but perceive how much the firſt is ſuperior to the laſt. Keep it therefore in your eyes.—As modeſty is a virtue eminently ſuitable to human nature, and a peculiar ornament to a young man, ſo it is excellently calculated to preſerve him in every other virtue, to forward him in the acquiſition of knowledge, and to render him happy in life.

In the journey of life, there are a thouſand avenues full of ſoliciting charms, which often prove too effectual in leading the forward and curious from the direct road of virtue. In theſe he pleaſes his fancy, and gratifies his inclinations; inſenſible at the time, of the hurt he receives on the one hand, of what he loſes on the other. The yielding once prepares him to yield a ſecond and a third time with ſtill more eaſe, until he is perhaps bewildered altogether. But the truly modeſt young man, being leſs forward, leſs curious, leſs confident in himſelf, more cautious, and having a more delicate ſenſe of propriety and regularity, is not ſo eaſily captivated. Does he reſiſt one temptation—he does a ſecond with more eaſe. The farther he advances, he becomes the better acquainted with his journey; until he arrives at that firmneſs of mind, which ſpurns with contempt all the flattering language, all the artful ſolicitations of theſe objects, which pleaſe the fancy and gratify the ſenſes, but wound and degrade the ſoul.—In ſhort, modeſty is a perpetual conſtraint in favour of virtue;—the dangerous and diſagreeable ſcenes which the forward, oſtentatious, and confident are too often betrayed into, ſhould, I think, be a ſtrong reaſon for you to cultivate this virtue.

If error and prejudice prevail in the world, every benevolent man, who ardently wiſhes theſe to be eradicated, looks up with anxious concern to the young and ſucceeding generation, for accompliſhing his benevolent deſigns; to it he directs his efforts, as affording the moſt apparent ſucceſs. And certainly, he who is the moſt ready to receive his inſtructions, who gives him the moſt patient and thankful attention, and in ſhort who is of the moſt teachable diſpoſition, has the ſureſt chance to procure moſt of his attention, eſteem and regard. To convince you of this,—ſuppoſe yourſelf in his ſituation, or that of any teacher of youth,—would you not prefer a humble, affable, and diffident pupil, in place of one conceited, confident, and full of himſelf? Moſt certainly you would. Every ſenſible man will ſtudy, in a variety of reſpects, to benefit a youth who ingenuouſly confeſſes his ignorance, by his interrogations and patient attention. On the contrary, few will be ſo ready to exert themſelves in favour of one who ſhews himſelf conceited and unthankful. Crude and ſenſeleſs objections to methods of inſtruction and good intentions, will diſcourage and diſguſt, but never attract, or give pleaſure or ſatisfaction. And poor is the young man who is his own maſter. Even wiſe men, when they have no friend to deliberate with, fall into many oddities and fancies;—how much more does the ſelfiſh, inexperienced young man, who will not deign to have a ſuperior!

Mark the modeſt man, his countenance indicates contentment. He is diſtinguiſhed by a calm and ſerene deportment. He accommodates himſelf to every circumſtance, ſituation, and occurrence of life. Although bold in duty, and in every laudable attempt towards the enjoyment of true happineſs, and in promoting that of others, yet he is far from aſpiring to the government of the world, or to the moulding of his own fortune. Hence he is free from anxious cares, from much trouble, fear, and diſcon-

tent. His confidence in Heaven, and his diffidence of himſelf, prevents him from the anticipation of *ideal* joys or ſorrows, which often elevates and depreſſes to the extreme, and proves the bane of preſent happineſs. This affable and kind diſpoſition procures him the love of mankind, and makes his company ſolicited. He is far from the temper and manner of thoſe, who are ſo tenacious to their own opinions, ſo impatient of contradiction, ſo irritated when things do not correſpond with their fancy and humour, that they render themſelves diſagreeable to all they are connected with, and are as much ſo to themſelves —Be ever on your guard, that you do not approve in others, by your conduct, what you may be apt to reprobate in another manner in them. Be kind without ſeverity; affable without meanneſs; and confident with modeſty. Remember you have it ſtill in your power to make yourſelf what you pleaſe. Much more could be ſaid upon the ſubject of this letter; but all I mean by my correſpondence is, to give you ſome of my thoughts as they occur on different ſubjects. Farewel.

ARISTIDES.

COPY of a LETTER from the Right Honourable the Earl of BUCHAN, *to* GILBERT STUART, *Eſq; L. L. D. and Honorary Member of the Society of Antiquaries in Scotland, concerning the Character and Honour of the celebrated and beautiful* Mary *Queen of Scots.*

Edinburgh, April 18. 1783.

SIR,

PRIESTS and poets were once the excluſive hiſtoriographers of the world; and it did not belong to men, who were not anointed or inſpired, to remove the veil under which the genuine features of truth were concealed.

Happily for you, my ſpirited countryman, theſe times are now no more; and though you are neither a prieſt nor a poet, you may, without profanity or rathneſs, enter the liſts with an hiſtorian, who is not only a prieſt, but has many prieſts and poets in his train.

On the faithful page of hiſtory, the final doom of mankind, ſo far as the world can award, is determined; and there is no wonder if men anxiouſly enquire concerning the fidelity and impartiality of their judges, and the veracity of the evidence on which the awful judgment has been founded and pronounced.

You, Sir, animated by theſe conſiderations, have happily reſcued a beautiful and injured Queen from the Rhadamanthean tribunal of her partial judges; and you have appealed to the public for a reverſal of the cruel ſentence which had been pronounced againſt her.

Bookſellers, Sir, have become the Mæcenaſes of our age; and authors, too often careleſs of immortality, write more for preſent profit than for laſting fame.

I ſuppoſe the fear of offending the high preſbyterian party, the deſire of pleaſing the Engliſh by an extenuation of the ungenerous conduct of Elizabeth, and the affectation of that impartiality and liberality of ſentiment which made him afterwards become even an apologiſt of the Spaniſh cruelties in America, induced your antagoniſt to avert his eye from the proofs which you have produced in vindication of the unfortunate Mary.

Authors may enrich themſelves, and may become the literary Cæſars of the day, by courting the prejudices of mankind, and diſentangling their conſciences from the laws of the republic of letters; for my part, I would not wiſh to ſee my literary tercel riſe from the hand of Apollo, at ſuch vulgar game.

I would adopt the memorable motto of the prince of painters, and ra-

ther conſent to live in obſcurity, than to die with the hopes of immortality.

Perhaps you might expect that I ſhould take ſome notice of the neglect ſhewn by Dr Robertſon of your literary challenge; but I am not diſpoſed, in anſwering your letter, to mention any circumſtances of a local and fugitive nature, which muſt of courſe fall into oblivion, whilſt the good that has been done in ſpite of them will be remembered: neither will I blot and defile theſe pages, which may meet the eye of poſterity, with any thing that can wound the feelings of a generous and ſenſible heart, on my account. It does not become the friend and diſciple of the great Lord Chatham, and the good Lord Lyttelton, to complain in theſe times of the effects of party and faction, either in the civil or literary commonwealth.

Stunned by the ſudden accounts of the inſidious and unfriendly oppoſition made by an hiſtorian to the legal requeſts of a Society, inſtituted for the purpoſe of exploring the materials of hiſtory, I expreſſed myſelf publicly in terms that were ſevere, but not more ſo than the occaſion ſeemed to demand *.

It ſeemed as if a controuling jealouſy, on your account, had given riſe to a conduct too abſurd to be ſubmitted to ſerious ſtricture.—Hereafter, I hope that popular author will be more careful to imitate the conduct of Bartholomew de la Caſas, than that of Cardinal Ximenes. I am, Sir, with regard, your obedient humble ſervant,

BUCHAN.

Singular Character of a MISER.

AN extraordinary perſonage died a few days ago, at Daventry in Northamptonſhire: his name was Trueman, a clergyman, rector of ſeveral places, particularly Bilton, where lived the celebrated Mr Addiſon, and where his daughter now lives. This miſer had livings to the value of near 400l. a-year, and is ſaid to have died worth 50,000l. His manner of living was, to go to the farm-houſes in his pariſhes to ſteal turnips as he went, and then to beg a little bacon to be boiled with them; but if the good-wife turned her back, and left the bacon near him, he would take up a knife, cut another ſlice, and put it in his pocket: this ſerved him next day at another farm-houſe, where he would beg potatoes or greens to his bacon. Sometimes he contrived, at the better ſort of farm-houſes, to ſtay all night, and this he would do without invitation: here he would ſteal the red and blue worſted out of the corners of the blankets, to darn his ſtockings with, for they were of all colours. He once in his life fell in love, but finding nothing would ſoften the heart of Dolly, the farmer's maid, but ribbands, &c. he recollected that his brother was a haberdaſher in Daventry; he therefore made an errand to his brother (who was never glad to ſee him), and ſtole a piece of ribband, which his ſaid brother detected fluttering about the farmer's maid, as he cheapened her butter.—He was buried in his ſummer-houſe a few days ago.

Account of an Extraordinary Execution at Paris.

A MONK, who belonged to the convent of Montmartre, having formed a deſign of gratifying his unnatural paſſion on a Savoyard boy, a commiſſionaire, or meſſenger frequenting the Boulevards, corner of Rue Boiſſoniere, enticed him to the convent, and pretending to confeſs him, took him into his cell, where, under the maſk of religion, the monſter in iniquity attempted to ſatisfy his brutal deſires, which the boy reſiſting, he

* Dr Robertſon, notwithſtanding his having accepted the place of a member of the Scots Antiquaries, oppoſed with violence their application for a charter from the Crown.

gagged, and bound him with cords, to prevent his crying out, or making any noiſe; and after ſtabbing him in ſeveral parts of the body, locked the door and fled. Being miſſed in the evening at veſpers, the ſuperior ſent to his cell, the door of which remained faſtened, notwithſtanding being repeatedly knocked at: it was ordered to be broke open, when a moſt ſhocking ſcene preſented itſelf to view, the poor boy weltering in his blood, and near expiring. Every aſſiſtance was immediately given, but in vain; for he ſurvived no longer than juſt to be able to relate the dreadful ſtory, and to diſcover who was the nefarious perpetrator of ſo inhuman a deed; in purſuit of whom the police inſtantly diſpatched the Marrechauſſe, and he was apprehended the next morning in the foreſt of St Germain, diſguiſed as a peaſant. Being conveyed to the priſon of the Grand Chatelet at Paris, he was privately tried according to the cuſtom of that country, though on this particular occaſion his ſentence was not announced ſo ſoon as is uſual; for it was not till after the expiration of twenty days allotted for the arrival of the chief executioners from the provincial cities, ſummoned to give their perſonal attendance at this execution *extraordinary*, that his ſentence was read to him, that within forty-eight hours he was to be broke upon the wheel, and his body, whilſt yet alive, burnt; at which he ſeemed very little affected. About one o'clock, on the 10th of October, under a ſtrong guard, and eſcorted by a very numerous proceſſion of Capuchin friars, bare-headed, with lighted torches in their hands, chanting a requiem for his departing ſoul, he was brought on foot to the church of Notre Dame, where barefooted, and ſtripped to his ſhirt, with labels behind and before, denoting in capital letters his crimes, he made his final confeſſion, and aſked pardon from God, his king, and his country. He was then, in the ſame order, conducted to the Greve, the place of execution, where a large ſcaffold, with the apparatus of death, were erected. At the ſame inſtant arrived the executioner of the capital, ſtiled Monſ. de Paris, who alighted from a moſt elegant cabriolet, beautifully ornamented with his arms and creſt on the pannels, and two ſervants in rich liveries behind. He was a tall handſome man, between thirty and forty years of age, dreſſed in ſcarlet and gold, with the inſignia of his order embroidered over the right ſhoulder, a ſword by his ſide, and from head to foot faſhionably and well equipped. After bowing three times to the ſpectators, who were amazingly numerous, he aſcended the ſcaffold, whereon the criminal had in the interim been placed, and accompanied by a large body of provincial executioners, and other officers of juſtice, his confeſſor now took leave, and he being faſtened to the croſs, Monſieur de Paris, by means of an iron bar, which he uſed with both hands, very expeditiouſly executed the firſt part of the ſentence; and then ordering the body to be truſſed on a wheel, they were thrown together into a large fire, kindled at a little diſtance from the ſcaffold. The poor wretch mounted the ſteps with ſeeming compoſure; but from the moment he received the firſt blow, he continued uttering the moſt piercing ſhrieks, till the fire put an end to his life and miſery.

A ſingular Inſtance of Filial Ingratitude.

A GENTLEMAN in Moravia, who was entruſted with the direction of a public bank, had a ſon, a lieutenant in the Imperial ſervice, who, making an improper uſe of his father's eaſy temper and extraordinary good nature, extorted from him ſeveral ſums of money for the purpoſe of gratifying his evil purſuits. One day coming to his father with

the utmoſt anxiety, he aſked him for ſix hundred florins (about ſeventy pounds ſterling), urging, that unleſs his demand was immediately complied with, he was a ruined man, and that his life and honour were both at ſtake. The father anſwered, it was not in his power to aſſiſt him at that time, unleſs he would be ſo imprudent as to take the caſh out of the bank. Notwithſtanding which, the ſon renewed his lamentations, and preſſed the old man ſo very cloſe, that he condeſcended to give him the caſh he wanted, taking it out of the bank; obſerving to him, at the ſame time, that his conduct would undoubtedly prove not only his own deſtruction, but alſo that of his poor father. The Emperor, then paſſing accidentally through the town where this affair happened, the lieutenant, throwing himſelf at the feet of his Majeſty, charged his father with having embezzled part of the money belonging to the imperial treaſury. Upon which the Emperor ſent for the father, who informed him of the whole tranſaction, and that he had only feigned to take the money out of the bank, to prevent his ſon from continuing his pecuniary ſolicitations; and proved, to the ſatisfaction of his ſovereign, that he had replaced the money he had taken. The Emperor upon this ordered the lieutenant to be turned out of his regiment with the higheſt note of infamy, and then to be confined for ten years to a citadel; and his Imperial Majeſty, to ſhew his magnanimous equity, has ſince encreaſed the appointment of the father.

Anecdote *of the* Duke *of* York *and* Milton.

JAMES II. when Duke of York, took it into his head to viſit Milton, merely out of curioſity. In the courſe of their converſation the Duke aſked Milton, whether he did not think the loſs of his ſight was a judgment upon him for what he had written againſt his father Charles I. Our immortal bard made the following reply: "If your Highneſs thinks that the calamities which befal us here are indications of the wrath of heaven, in what number are we to account for the fate of the king your father? The diſpleaſure of heaven muſt, upon this ſuppoſition, have been much greater againſt *him* than *me*, for I have only loſt my *eyes*, but he loſt his *head*."

The Mistake.—*An* Anecdote.

A GENTLEMAN that had for ſome time paid his addreſſes to a young lady, having occaſion to go into the country, called at her houſe to take his leave, but was ſurpriſed to hear that Miſs was not up, and accordingly told the maid, that he was ſorry her young miſtreſs indulged herſelf ſo much in the arms of Morpheus. The maid ſaid ſhe probably might forget Mr Morpheus's name, and therefore hoped he would be kind enough to write down the meſſage. He, agreeable to the girl's requeſt, wrote the meſſage down, which ſhe faithfully gave to her miſtreſs. The young lady on reading the note turned pale, calling her lover cruel, jealous man, to ſuſpect that ſhe had an intrigue with any perſon, and much more with Mr Morpheus, a man ſhe never ſaw nor heard of in her life. The moment breakfaſt was over, ſhe poſted to a female confidante, and ſhewed her the note, declaring that for ſuch ungenerous ſuſpicion, ſhe was determined never more to ſpeak to her lover again. Her friend being better read, explained the matter, telling her that Morpheus was the god of ſleep, and all that her lover meant was to chide her for ſlumbering ſo long. Miſs ſaw her error, bluſhed for her ignorance, and the next meeting things were amicably ſettled.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

The BELLES of CRAIGNISH.

WHEN the ſky was ſerene, and the ev'ning was ſtill,
The moon juſt beginning to peep o'er the hill;
The nymphs of the village went tripping along,
Their health their purſuit, their amuſement a ſong.
Ye damps! that inhabit the ſhade of the night,
Ye goblins! that fly from the face of the light;
Approach not the fair, nor in ambuſh reſide,
For Innocence, Beauty, and Youth are their guide.

II.

On the pinions of love, o'er the dew-ſprinkled plain,
To the nymphs, in an inſtant, advanced a ſwain;
So lively, yet tender, ſo charming their eye,
He gaz'd with ſurpriſe, and admir'd with a ſigh:
While, joyous, they wander'd in hand o'er the green,
The ſhade and the ſilence enhancing the ſcene,
The moon and the planets ſuch grandeur diſplay'd,
To Heav'n their attention inſenſibly ſtray'd.

III.

Here the youth could his wonder no longer contain;—
"I ſpeak not, ye faireſt! to render you vain:
How bleſt the young lover deſign'd for your charms!
How happy the infant to ſmile in your arms!"
He ſpoke, and the genius of Truth from on high
Confirm'd the applauſe by a gleam in the ſky;
The fair, as with flatt'ry and ſoftneſs oppreſt,
Look'd down, and in ſilence their feelings expreſs'd.

IV.

The ſhepherds 'ere now, had retir'd from the fold,
And Night her laſt ſhade unperceived unroll'd,
A voice from the village is heard on the height,
The nymphs know the ſummons, and anſwer it ſtraight;
Now home is their object, and home they obtain;
They curtſy, and bid an adieu to the ſwain;
But looking dejected, and ſeeming to mourn,
So pleas'd he was with them, he would not return.

V.

"Permit me, ſweet virgins! to follow you ſtill,
My ſervice ſhall owe no commands but your will;
I'll ſtill be prepar'd to attend on your walks,
And guard you from danger, when peſtilence ſtalks.
The regions from which my commiſſion I bear,
Are peaceful and ſweet, and the females are fair;
But I find ſuch perfection to you has been giv'n,
If that can be Paradiſe, this muſt be Heav'n."

VI.

The nymphs, with a glow, ſome emotions diſcover,
While he talk'd like a genius, and pleas'd like a lover;
Nor knew they directly what anſwer to make,
Afraid to return, yet averſe to forſake.
At laſt, with a frown that had more of a ſmile,
For ſo flatt'ring a ſwain ſeemed form'd to beguile:
"Blind youth," they addreſs'd him, "but look and you'll ſee,
This region is CRAIGNISH, and Eve's daughters we."

D—.

Cuckoo-Caſtle, September 1783.

SHAKESPEARE and VOLTAIRE. By Mr HOLCROFT.

CLAD in the wealthy robes his genius wrought,
In happy dreams was gentle Shakeſpeare laid;
His pleas'd ſoul wand'ring thro' th' realms of thought
While all his elves and fairies round him play'd:

Voltaire approach'd, ſtraight fled the frolic band
(For Envy's breath ſuch ſprites may not endure),
He pilfer'd many a gem, with trembling hand,
Then ſtabb'd the bard, to make the theft ſecure.

Ungrateful man! tho' vain thy black deſign,
Th' attempt, and not the deed, thy hand deſil'd;
Preſerv'd by his own charms and ſpells divine,
Safely the gentle Shakeſpeare ſlept, and ſmil'd.

SONNET from the Italian *of Don* Franciſco de Quevedo Villegas, *imitated in* Engliſh.

THAT, Thyrſis, is the fount ſo clear,
Where Phyllis us'd her charms to view;
And that the meadow whence her hair
Its choiceſt wreaths and flow'rets drew:

And there, my Thyrſis, once we ſtood,
And gaz'd upon the ſetting ſun;
And that, my Thyrſis, is the wood,
Where, to conceal herſelf, ſhe ran.

On yonder mountain's ſhaggy brow,
Her lovely hand in mine ſhe join'd;
And from that bed of vi'lets blue,
A chaplet for my head ſhe twin'd.

To wood, and dale, and fount, and field,
And Heav'n's diſpoſing care,
Sincereſt gratitude I yield,
For ſweets ſo rich and rare.

REVIEW.

The Epistolary Correspondence, Visitation Charges, Speeches, and Miscellanies, of the Right Reverend Francis Atterbury, *D. D. Lord Bishop of Rochester. 2 vols. 8vo. 10s. boards.* Nichols, London.

THE literary fame of Dr Atterbury, and what, in the course of providence, he was called to act, and to suffer, excite in his countrymen a curiosity to know all the productions of his genius, and the transactions of his life.

The Stuart party in the English government endeavoured to avail themselves, as it is well known, of that national ferment which arose in consequence of the famous South Sea scheme, and of the encreasing connections of England with the continent, and particularly the predilection of the king for Hanover.—The jacobites were busy, and the whigs were suspicious. Several persons of great quality and distinction were apprehended; but Francis Atterbury, Lord Bishop of Rochester, was deprived of his see, and his seat in parliament, and banished for life. The justice of his punishment was brought in question even at that time. In the present there are few, we presume, who read with care his memorable speech in the House of Lords, who will not pronounce his sentence to have been severe and unmerited.

This speech may be said to be now first faithfully published, as the slightest comparison with that erroneously printed in the State Trials will evidently shew. The Bishop opens with great sensibility, by complaining of the uncommon severity he had experienced in the Tower: which was carried so far, that even his son-in-law, Mr Morrice, was not permitted to speak to him in any nearer mode than standing in an area, whilst the Bishop looked out of a two pair of stairs window. The same vindictive spirit pursued him in foreign climes; no British subject, not even his nearest relations, being permitted to visit him, without the king's sign manual.

That it is Belles Letters, and not politics, which are the immediate object of this publication. And here we recognize [illegible] high church and monarchial principles which distinguished the Bishop of Rochester; at the same time that purity of stile, that elegance of taste, that correctness of judgment, that extent of polite erudition, which drew praise and admiration from Addison, Prior, Pope, Arbuthnot, and Swift. Even in the minutest trifles, in the most familiar epistles, and on the humblest topics, we discover an air and manner which bespeak the man of taste and dignity.

The correspondence of Atterbury with the Lords Orrery and Stanhope, with Swift and Prior, and his pamphlet on the test act, are now for the first time printed; with four visitation charges, of which that to the diocese of Rochester, in particular, is of uncommon excellence.

As it is scenes of distress which display the highest and most affecting degrees of virtue, so the exile of the Bishop of Rochester gave occasion to a noble and very interesting exercise of parental tenderness on the one part, and of filial duty and affection on the other. What mostly embittered the banishment of the Bishop, was regret at leaving behind him his daughter, Mrs Morrice, in an infirm state of health. A mutual longing to see one another took fast hold of the father and daughter; and the lady, though very ill, performed with great difficulty and pain, a journey and voyage from Westminster to Bourdeaux and Toulouse, where Dr Atterbury resided. Mr J. Evans, a gentleman who accompanied Mr and Mrs Morrice on their voyage from Dover to Bourdeaux, and from thence to Toulouse, gives an exact diary of this journey, which is truly interesting. The same gentleman, who was present at Mrs Morrice's death, gives a very pathetic narrative of that event, with the circumstances that accompanied it. The fictions of the tragic muse have not exhibited a more affecting scene: and, so forcible are the impressions of truth and nature, that a plain gentleman with a good heart, unknown to the world, and unambitious of literary fame, describes the latter end of that amiable lady in a manner that could not have been surpassed by the finest writer. Such is the power of simplicity and nature, and such the connection between taste and virtue! It is in an affecting description of human life and manners, and above all in displaying amiable and heroic virtue, that literature is most happily employed. It

is thus that it ſoftens and humanizes the mind, and diſpoſes it to univerſal ſympathy. *Emollit mores nec ſinit eſſe feros.*

Mr Evans, in a letter to his brother in London, dated from Montpelier, Nov. 30, 1729, writes thus:

" Dear Brother,

" In mine of the 9th inſtant, from Toulouſe, I promiſed you a more particular account of the death of Mrs Morrice at my arrival here, where I got the 13th; but, within an hour after was confined to my bed by a fit of the gout, which took me the laſt day on the road, and held me ten days; ſo that I was not out of my bed for two hours in all that time: but having now again the uſe of my hand, I do with pleaſure write to you, and keep my promiſe.

" On Sunday the 6th inſtant N. S. in the evening, we reached Blagnac, a village not above half a league, by land, from Toulouſe: but by water (by reaſon of a very ſtrong lee current, and the windings of the river) it takes three hours to get up to the town. So it was reſolved, rather than expoſe Mrs Morrice too much to the fatigue (of which ſhe had undergone an infinite deal, and bore it with incredible patience), or keep her late on the water, to reſt at Blagnac that night, where ſhe was put to bed in the ſame weak condition ſhe uſually had been, but not ſeemingly worſe. But about midnight the women came to Mr Morrice and me, and told us they thought they ſaw her changed. We roſe, and came to her chamber; where we found her ſo ill, that we thought fit to call up the boatmen, and order them to prepare the boat to depart immediately; fearing much, from the change we ſaw, that, near as ſhe was to it, ſhe would ſcarce live to reach Toulouſe, which we all earneſtly deſired to do, ſince no phyſician, or other help, could be had, in the poor place where we then were. She herſelf preſſed this matter: and we well knew, that all her wiſhes and deſires were conſtantly bent upon ſeeing her father, whom ſhe hoped to find at Toulouſe. She was taken out of her bed, at her own deſire, and carried to the boat with great difficulty, not being able to ſit in the chair which Mr Morrice had brought from Bourdeaux, with two chairmen, purely for the carrying her in and out of the boat more at her eaſe; and ſo we parted thence about two o'clock in the morning, ſending two ſervants by land to procure a litter to meet her at the landing place. About five we arrived there; and ſoon after ſix the litter came, which carried Mrs Morrice to the houſe in Toulouſe, where her father was expecting he, but not knowing how near or how far ſhe was, though he had diſpatched a man and horſe to get intelligence of us, who happened to miſs us. When the ſervants, who had been ſent for the litter, returned, ſhe was informed of the Biſhop's being at Toulouſe, and ſeemed to take new ſpirits upon it, which no doubt were of great uſe, to enable her to bear going in the litter, which otherwiſe ſhe could ſcarce have done, even for ſo ſhort a way. After ſhe had been put into her bed (where, as I told you, ſhe never ſlept till ſhe ſlept her laſt), and had a little recovered the fatigue ſhe underwent in the conveyance from the boat, which was about a mile, her father, whom ſhe immediately enquired after, came into her room, and was ſtartled to find her in ſo very low a condition. After mutual expreſſions of concern and tenderneſs, ſhe particularly acknowledged the great bleſſing that was granted her, of meeting her dear Papa; and exerted all the little life that was in her, in graſping his hands with her utmoſt force, as ſhe often did: and told him, that meeting was the chief thing that ſhe had ardently deſired.

" The Biſhop ſome time after left her chamber, that ſhe might compoſe herſelf, and that he might himſelf give vent to the juſt grief he was filled with, to ſee his beloved child in a manner expiring. But we found ſhe took no reſt; ſo he ſoon returned, and ſaid prayers by her, and propoſed to her the receiving the holy ſacrament the next morning, when he hoped ſhe might have been a little refreſhed in order to it: ſhe embraced the offer with much ſatisfaction. He then aſked her, for fear of any accident, if ſhe was not deſirous to have the abſolution of the church? She declared ſhe was; and begged to have it. After ſome little private diſcourſe with her, he gave it her, in the form preſcribed in " the Viſitation to the Sick;" and ſhe expreſſed great comfort upon receiving it. A phyſician had been ſent for immediately upon her arrival. When he came, he gave little hopes, but ſaid, all depended upon the manner of her paſſing that night; and in the

mean time preſcribed only what would be comfortable and cordial to her ſtomach and bowels, which ſhe was to take every three hours. It had that effect; for ſhe ſeemed to lie pretty compoſed and eaſy the reſt of the day; and the diarrhæa, which before had been extremely troubleſome, became leſs violent.

"She once mentioned Dr Wyntle, who you know had been her phyſician; and who had ſo neglected her as for ſome time before ſhe left England never to come near her, according to his appointment, nor give the leaſt direction for her management in the long voyage ſhe was about to make. She ſaid to the Biſhop, "Dear Papa, has Mr Morrice told you how Dr Wyntle has ſerved us?" Who anſwered, "Yes, my dear, I know it all; but do not let that trouble you now." She replied, "Oh, no, Papa, I do not trouble myſelf about that; I have other things to think of at this time; but I did not know whether Mr Morrice had told you."

"Hoping by this time ſhe might incline to take a little reſt, her father and huſband retired, it being between eleven and twelve at night; but about two in the morning ſhe ſent one of her women to me (who lay on the ſame floor in the next room to her) to deſire to ſpeak to me: and when I came, ſhe ſaid, not ſeemingly with much pain, but with ſuch a ſhortneſs of breath, that ſhe was forced to breathe after every two or three words, "Mr Evans, I have been working—theſe three hours—and would fain—have the ſacrament." I wondered at her ſending for me on that account, her huſband and father being both near at hand; but I found afterwards it was her unwillingneſs, by a direct meſſage from herſelf, too much to alarm either of them. However, being then not apprized of her reaſon for it, I doubted a little of her being in her right ſenſes, and ſaid, "Madam, would you *now* receive the ſacrament?" She ſaid, "Yes, I would—if poſſible—preſently—." Of which the Biſhop being immediately adviſed, as was Mr Morrice, and every thing prepared, he came, and adminiſtered to her, and to all preſent, the ſacrament; and afterwards, at her deſire, continued repeating the prayers of the church till ſhe began to draw very near her end; and then he uſed and continued the recommendatory prayer only; ſhe all the while holding her hands in a poſture of prayer, and ſometimes joining in a low voice with him.

"After this, her father being gone from the bed-ſide, ſhe called for him (as ſhe had very frequently done,) and again ſaid to him—"Dear Papa,—what a bleſſing is it—that after—ſuch a long—troubleſome—journey—we have—the comfort—of this meeting!"

"And, indeed, when I reflect on it, and conſider the weak condition ſhe was in upon the road, the many accidents that happened to retard the voyage, and the laſt effort ſhe made when ſhe was at the worſt towards finiſhing it, I cannot but think that that meeting ſeemed granted by Heaven to her continual fervent prayers for it.

"About this time ſhe called to her huſband (who was always in near attendance upon her) and ſaid, "Dear Mr Morrice—take care of the children—I know you will——Remember me—to the Ducheſs of Buckingham."

"She alſo, in a proper place, recommended her ſervants to Mr Morrice.

"She now found her feet cold, and ordered them to be rubbed, at the ſame time calling for her broth; but when it came, not being able to ſwallow it, ſhe turned herſelf on her left ſide, and reſted her head on her left hand, which ſhe doubled; extending her right hand and arm over the bed-cloaths; and in this poſture ſhe continued drawing her breath ſhorter and ſhorter, but with the leaſt emotion that poſſibly could be, till ſhe at laſt expired, a quarter before four o'clock on Tueſday morning, Nov. 8. N. S.

"An entire reſignation to the will of God, a piety towards her father, huſband, and family, made her death full of the religion of a ſaint, and of the regularity and compoſure of a philoſopher. It was then ſhe gave a ſeal and ſanction to the judgment and affection of her friends; and ſhewed one of the beſt and wiſeſt, as well as nobleſt of her ſex (the Ducheſs of Buckingham, who I have heard had a very great regard for her), that ſhe had made a right judgment of her, and beſtowed her love on one who deſerved it. Such a death, at the end of a virtuous life, would make one ſee what is deareſt and neareſt to us expire, not only without uneaſineſs, but with pleaſure, were human nature capable of acting by reaſon at ſuch a time without paſſion: but the moſt exalted of mankind partake of the dying pains of thoſe that nature and affec-

tion have made dear to them; and even feel agonies which the dying are sometimes, by special favour, exempted from, as I really think she was.

"I shall conclude this account with a reflection I made at the time; that it was well worth my while to have taken so long a voyage, though I was immediately to return home again, and reap no other benefit from it than the seeing what passed in the last hours of Mrs Morrice. I am, dear brother, yours most affectionately,

J. EVANS."

On the whole, although there be scarcely any thing in these productions of Atterbury that serves to illustrate the grand objects of science, yet as an elegant and agreeable amusement, they will be much regarded by all men of taste, as they are every where distinguished by a peculiar delicacy of thought, and a masterly turn of expression. E.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

CONCISE HISTORY *of the* PROCEEDINGS *of* LAST SESSION.

[*Concluded from* p. 224.]

ON the 16th of June, Lord John Cavendish moved a resolution to the House, that the power allowed to persons brewing beer for their own use, of compounding for the duty, to prevent the visits of excise officers, do cease and determine, which, after some opposition, was agreed to, and a bill ordered in, which was passed on the 2d of July.

Mr Gascoyne brought up a report from a committee relative to Sir Ashton Lever's museum; the report seemed favourable to the petitioner, but no further proceeding was had on it.

On the 17th, Sir Cecil Wray presented a petition from the Quakers, (suggested by a bill then depending), praying in behalf of the unfortunate negroes, that the inhuman traffic of the slave trade should be abolished. Lord North said, the slave trade was now become so necessary to every nation in Europe, that he reckoned it next to an impossibility to induce all the merchants to relinquish it, and was afraid the humane wishes of the petitioners could not be accomplished.—The petition was ordered to lie upon the table.

A petition from Henry Phillips, claiming some reward for an invention for destroying the weevils in bread, was rejected.

The House went through in a Committee Mr Pitt's bill for abolishing fees, and establishing œconomy in public offices.—Mr Pitt instanced a variety of abuses that existed in the Pay-office, Post-office, and Treasury. Lord North and Mr Fox replied.

On the 18th, the Secretary at War moved, that the sum of 18731. be granted for the expence of 400 letter-men, at 1s. per day.—These were men who having spent most of their lives in the army, were rewarded with the King's letter, which procured them this bounty.—Passed.

Mr Minchin moved, that 48781. be granted for the purchasing of lands whereon to erect fortifications for the better defence of Portsmouth dock.—Passed.

On the 20th, in a Committee of Supply, Lord Mulgrave moved two resolutions, that the present provision for naval officers' widows is inadequate, and that an address be presented to his Majesty praying that said provision be raised to 1[illegible] for Captains widows, and 30l. for the widows of Lieutenants, Masters, and Commanders.—Passed unanimously.

On the 23d, a desultory conversation arose relative to the payment of Lord Holland's balance, in which Mr Fox complained much of the persecuting spirit which had been shown in the demand of that money.

On the 24th, Lord John Cavendish brought in a bill for continuing the commission of accounts for another year, which was passed on the 3d of July.

On the 25th the bill for allowing the exportation of brass, was passed.

An uninteresting conversation arose on a motion by General Smith, relative to allowing the officers in American provincial regiments half-pay on the British establishment; the motion was withdrawn.

The House, in a Committee of Supply, took into consideration his Majesty's message, which had been delivered on the 23d by Lord John Cavendish, in which his Majesty acquainted the House, "That he had judged it expedient to form a separate establishment for his dearly beloved son, the Prince of Wales, and referred it to his faithful Commons to consider the means by which it might be

carried into effect, conſiſtent with the preſent burdens of the people; and he aſſured his Commons, that whenever he felt himſelf obliged to call for any additional aid from his beloved ſubjects, it always gave him the moſt ſenſible concern."

Lord John Cavendiſh, after many encomiums on the generoſity of his Majeſty, moved, that 60,000l. be granted to his Majeſty towards ſettling the eſtabliſhment of the Prince of Wales, which, after ſome explanation, paſſed *nem. con.*

On the 27th, a bill was brought from the Houſe of Lords on a ſubject very intereſting to the patrons of church livings.—It originated as ollows:—The Biſhop of London had refuſed to induct a perſon to a living, becauſe he had granted a bond to the patron (one Fytche,) obliging himſelf to reſign when called upon, under a penalty which the Biſhop deemed a ſimoniacal contract.—This plea, in an action in the Court of Common Pleas, was over-ruled, as ſuch contracts had been deemed legal for two centuries.—But this judgment was over-ruled in the Houſe of Lords; and this bill was introduced to quiet the minds of incumbents and patrons who had given and received ſimilar bonds.—It was ordered to be printed, but was rejected on the 1ſt of July.

General Conway moved for a bill to enable the Adjutant General and the Comptrollers of the army to ſend and receive letters free of poſtage.—Agreed, and the bill was paſſed on the 8th.

In a Committee of Supply, Lord North moved, that the officers of the American corps be put on the half pay liſt of the army, which, after ſome debate, and various remarks and explanations, paſſed without a diviſion.—The following reſolutions were then voted:

That the ſum of 11,236l. 4s. be granted to his Majeſty, to make good the money iſſued purſuant to addreſſes.

14,452l. 17s. 3d. to make good the money iſſued for maintaining, ſecuring, and employing the convicts on the River Thames.

25,000l. towards carrying on the buildings at Somerſet Houſe.

7,500l. to the Commiſſioners for public accounts.

1,000l. to the officers of the Board of Works, for their trouble and expences in ſurveying and eſtimating the loſſes occaſioned by the riots in 1780.

76,849l. 16s. 6½d. to make good the money iſſued to American ſufferers.

800l. for new paving certain ſtreets within the pariſhes of St Margaret and St John the Evangeliſt, Weſtminſter.

15,000l. upon account of half-pay to certain Provincial corps.

13,000l. for the ſupport of the African forts and ſettlements.

2,760l. 11s. 3d. for the pay of General and General Staff Officers in Great Britain, from the 25th of April to 24th of June following.

77,985l. 5s. 10d. upon account of the reduced officers of land forces and marines for 1783.

574l. 18s. 4d. for allowances to officers and private gentlemen of reduced Horſe Guards.

47,500l. upon further account of reduced officers of land forces.

3,513l. 9s. upon the ſeveral officers, late in the ſervice of the States General.

5,329l. 10s. 6d. for repairing the Scots roads.

The article for Somerſet Houſe was much objected to by Mr Huſſey, who ſaid, that though 170,000l. had been already expended on it, it would coſt the nation 300,000l. more.

On the 30th, in a Committe of ways and means, the laſt grants for the year were voted, viz. 1,500,000l. in Exchequer bills, and 2,100,000l. at which the ſinking fund was rated.

On the 1ſt of July, the Houſe went into a Committee on two meſſages from his Majeſty, in one of which he acquainted the Houſe, that having taken into conſideration the great and diſtinguiſhed ſervices of the Right Honourable George Brydges Lord Rodney; his victory over the Spaniards; his ſpirited engagement of a ſuperior French fleet in the Weſt Indies in the year 1780, and his complete victory over the French fleet on the 12th of April 1782; his Majeſty had been of opinion, that a penſion of 2000l. a-year ſhould be ſettled on the ſaid Lord Rodney for his own life, and the lives of the two next heirs of his body, to whom the title of Lord Rodney ſhall deſcend. The other meſſage ſtated the eminent ſervices of General Sir Auguſtus Elliot, in his gallant defence of Gibraltar; and that his Majeſty intended to ſettle 1500l. a-year on him for his own life, and the life of his ſon, Francis Auguſtus Elliot, Eſq;—His Majeſty not being empowered by law to

grant a penſion for more than his own life, out of the Civil Liſt applied to Parliament for ſuch a power.

Lord John Cavendiſh moved, that the above penſions be granted, the firſt to commence the 12th of April, and the other the 13th of September 1782.—The bill for this purpoſe was paſſed on the 9th of July.

The Houſe took into conſideration the petition of the Eaſt India Company, and two motions, allowing the Company a reaſonable time to diſcharge their debt, and alſo a loan of 300,000l. to anſwer preſent emergencies, were agreed to. The bill for this purpoſe was paſſed the 9th of July.

On the 2d of July, the Houſe came to a reſolution to enable his Majeſty to raiſe 55,000l. to diſcharge ſome debts on the Civil Liſt.—The bill for this purpoſe was paſſed July 12.

In a Committee on the revenue laws, Lord John Cavendiſh moved, that the duty on muſlins, callicoes, and nankeens, be reduced from 48l. to 18l. per cent. and a drawback of 10l. per cent. be allowed on exportation.—This regulation, he flattered himſelf, would operate much againſt ſmuggling. He alſo propoſed to lower the duty on cocoa and coffee, the produce of Britiſh plantations, from 1s. 6d. to 6d. per pound.—Both motions paſſed without oppoſition. And the bill for enacting them paſſed July 10.

The Houſe ordered all letters relative to the raiſing a Swiſs regiment by Colonel Erſkine, to be laid before them. This regiment had been raiſed by the countenance of government, for the India Company; but the Company not chuſing to employ them in their ſervice, refuſed the officers likewiſe any compenſation; many of the officers, who were Swiſs, had been baniſhed their country, and had their property confiſcated, becauſe they had engaged to raiſe men for England. The papers were preſented the 15th, and an addreſs was moved to his Majeſty, requeſting him to grant ſuch relief to the officers as to him ſhall ſeem meet, and that the Houſe will make good the ſame.—Paſſed unanimouſly.

On the 4th of July, in a Committee on the bill for regulating certain offices in Exchequer, Lord John Cavendiſh propoſed ſeveral regulations for reducing and fixing the ſalaries of the auditor, tellers, clerk of the pells, &c. and that theſe ſalaries be paid out of the fees now received in the office, and the overplus applied to the uſe of the public, by which a ſaving would be made of 7,000l. a-year in time of peace, and of 40,000l. in time of war. His Lordſhip then made a motion, that the ſalaries of theſe offices in future ſhall be fixed and certain, and as follow: The place of auditor, 4000l. a-year; each tellerſhip, 2700l.; clerkſhip of the pells, 3000l.: the place of deputy to each of the four tellers, 1000l.; the place of deputy to the deputies to be totally aboliſhed; the deputy to the clerk of the pells, 800l.; and the receiver under him 200l. From the reports of the Commiſſioners of Accounts, it appeared that the preſent income of the tellers amounted in time of peace to 2500l. per ann. and in war to near 8000l.—His Lordſhip's motion paſſed unanimouſly.

On the 7th, a debate aroſe on ſeveral clauſes of this bill, particularly on one moved by Mr Pulteney, to prevent even the preſent tellers, &c. from receiving any more in time of war than of peace; and he quoted various precedents within the laſt ſeventy years, of the interference of Parliament to regulate, modify, and even to take away fees entirely.—Lord North oppoſed this clauſe, as he ſaid the grants of the various offices were conſidered to have veſted in the grantees an intereſt for life, and that they held the fees of their office as their freehold.—This clauſe was rejected, and the bill paſſed on the 8th.

On the 8th, in a Committee on the bill for appointing Commiſſioners to enquire into the claims of the American loyaliſts, the Commiſſioners names were filled up with thoſe of Mr Cooke, Mr Wilmot, Sir Thomas Dundas, Mr Roberts, and Mr Marſh.—The bill paſſed the 9th.

On the 10th the Houſe voted ſeveral ſums to clerks for their attendance on the Committee of Secrecy on India affairs.

Lord John Cavendiſh laid before the Houſe a book containing a liſt of the paymaſters who had not accounted for the ſums they had received.—A motion was made for an addreſs to his Majeſty on the ſubject, which was agreed to. And the addreſs having been preſented, his Majeſty graciouſly promiſed to take it into conſideration.

On the 16th, Mr Fraſer moved, that a liſt of the fees taken at the Cuſtom-houſes of Scotland, on cockets, debentures, &c

be laid before the Houſe early next Seſſion.—Ordered.

The buſineſs of the ſeſſion was concluded with a motion by Mr Burke, that ſeveral important papers on India affairs which had been received by the Select Committee, be laid before the Houſe next Seſſion, and ſtrongly recommended it to gentlemen to come forward to conſider that great and intereſting buſineſs.

The buſineſs of the Houſe of Lords was much the ſame as that diſcuſſed by the Commons.—There were few political queſtions agitated by their Lordſhips after the debates on the peace—The taxes, indeed, produced ſeveral debates of conſiderable length, as did the Prince of Wales's houſehold bill, the American commercial bill, and the different bills for a reform in the public offices.

On the 11th of July, 22 bills received the royal aſſent by commiſſion, among which were, the Exchequer bill—the paper and vellum, &c. ſtamp duty bill—the quack medicine duty-bill—the ſtage-coach duty-bill—the waggon and cart duty bill—the regiſter duty-bill of births, marriages, burials, &c.—the malt duty-bill—the Adjutant-general's poſtage—the rice bill—the bill relative to prize-goods in ware-houſes—the Commiſſioners of Public accounts bill—the Portſmouth compenſation bill—the African bill—Sir Thomas Rumbold's continuing bill—Sir Thomas Rumbold's reſtraining bill.

On the 16th of July, his Majeſty came to the Houſe in the uſual ſtate, and having taken his ſeat, the Commons attending, the Speaker addreſſed his Majeſty in a ſhort ſpeech, in which he alluded to the various money-bills that had been paſſed this ſeſſions, and the hope that as peace was again returned, the country would feel an alleviation of that burden which the neceſſary expences of the war had unavoidably occaſioned; he was likewiſe happy to inform his Majeſty, that by the perſeverance and aſſiduity of his faithful Commons they had ſo arranged the affairs reſpecting the Eaſt Indies, as there remained but little doubt of bringing them to a final iſſue at a very early period in the next ſeſſions; he then preſented to the Houſe the ſinking fund bill, Lord Rodney's, and Sir George Auguſtus Elliot's annuity bills, to which he requeſted with all humility his Majeſty's concurrence.—The bills then received the royal aſſent in the uſual forms; after which his Majeſty delivered the following moſt gracious ſpeech from the throne:

KING'S SPEECH.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"The advanced ſeaſon of the year requires ſome remiſſion from your long and laborious attention to the public ſervice. The exigencies of that ſervice may oblige me to call you together again at an early period; and I perſuade myſelf, from my uniform experience of your affection to me, and your zeal for the public good, that you will chearfully ſubmit to a temporary inconvenience, for the permanent advantage of your country.

"The conſideration of the affairs of the Eaſt Indies, will require to be reſumed as early as poſſible, and to be purſued with a ſerious and unremitting attention.

"I expected to have had the ſatisfaction of acquainting you, before the end of the ſeſſion, that the terms of pacification were definitively ſettled: but the complicated ſtate of the buſineſs in diſcuſſion has unavoidably protracted the negociation. I have, however, every reaſon to believe, from the diſpoſitions ſhewn by the ſeveral powers concerned, that they are perfectly well inclined to ſuch a concluſion as may ſecure the bleſſings of peace, ſo much and ſo equally to be deſired by all parties.

"*Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons,*

"I thank you for the ſupplies you have ſo liberally granted for the public ſervice; for facilitating my arrangements towards a ſeparate eſtabliſhment for the Prince of Wales; and for enabling me, without any new burdens on my people, to diſcharge the debt which remained on my civil liſt.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"I earneſtly recommend to you an attention towards promoting among my people, in your ſeveral counties, that ſpirit of order, regularity, and induſtry, which is the true ſource of revenue and power in this nation; and without which all regulations for the improvement of the one, or the increaſe of the other, will have no effect."

Then the Earl Mansfield, Speaker of the Houſe of Lords, by his Majeſty's command, prorogued the Parliament to Tueſday the 9th day of September.—It was afterwards prorogued by royal proclamation to the 11th November.

[His Majeſty went only twice to the Houſe of Lords laſt ſeſſion, and the public and private bills which received the royal aſſent amounted to 147.]

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

SUMMARY *of the* PROCEEDINGS *of the* PRESENT SESSION.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, November 11.

ALITTLE before one o'clock, Lord Mansfield (as Speaker) went to the Houſe of Peers, and prayers having been read, the Houſe adjourned to robe. At a quarter before two, his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales came down in ſtate, Lord Southampton, Lord Lewiſham, and other attendants, accompanying him in two coaches. As ſoon as his Royal Highneſs was robed, he was conducted into the Houſe in the following order:

Garter King at Arms, Uſher of the Black Rod, Lord High Chamberlain, Preſident of the Council, Lord Privy Seal, Lord Steward of the Houſehold; then his Royal Highneſs, ſupported by the Duke of Cumberland and the Duke of Richmond: As ſoon as they approached the woolſack, the Prince delivered his patent to the Speaker, who returning it, the ſame was read by the Clerk, as alſo his Royal Highneſs's writ of ſummons: This being done, they proceeded in the ſame order to the chair of ſtate, in which his Royal Highneſs was placed. The coronet was carried on a cuſhion by Lord Lewiſham. The ceremony being now cloſed, the Houſe was again adjourned during pleaſure.

At about a quarter before three, his Majeſty came in the uſual ſtate, and being ſeated on the throne, his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales again took his ſeat in the chair of ſtate on the right hand of his Majeſty, Lord Southampton and Lord Lewiſham ſupporting the coronet, and the other proper officers near the chair.—The Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, with the Uſher of the Black Rod, and a great number o members, being come to the bar, his Majeſty was pleaſed to make the following moſt gracious ſpeech:

KING's SPEECH.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"I HAVE the ſatisfaction to inform you, that definitive treaties of peace have been concluded with the Courts of France and Spain and with the United States of America Preliminary Articles have been alſo ratified with the States General of the United Provinces. I have ordered theſe ſeveral treaties to be laid before you; and am happy to add, that I have no cauſe to doubt but that all thoſe powers agree with me in my ſincere inclination to keep the calamities of war at a great diſtance.

"The objects which are to be brought under your deliberation will ſufficiently explain my reaſons for calling you together after ſo ſhort a receſs. Enquiries of the utmoſt importance have been long and diligently purſued, and the fruit of them will be expected. The ſituation of the Eaſt India Company will require the utmoſt exertions of your wiſdom, to maintain and improve the valuable advantages derived from our Indian poſſeſſions, and to promote and ſecure the happineſs of the native inhabitants of thoſe provinces.

"The ſeaſon of peace will call upon you for an attention to every thing which can recruit the ſtrength of the nation, after ſo long and ſo expenſive a war.—The ſecurity and increaſe of the revenue, in the manner leaſt burdenſome to my ſubjects, will be amongſt your firſt objects. In many eſſential parts it has ſuffered; dangerous frauds have prevailed; and alarming outrages have been committed. Exertions have not been wanting to repreſs this daring ſpirit, nor pains to enquire into its true cauſes.—In any inſtances in which the powers of government may not be equal to its utmoſt care and vigilance, I have no doubt that the wiſdom of my parliament will provide ſuch remedies as may be found wanting for the accompliſhment of purpoſes in which the material intereſts of this nation are ſo deeply concerned.

"*Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons,*

"I have ordered the eſtimates of the expences for the year to be laid before you. From thoſe you will perceive the reduction which I have made in all the eſtabliſhments, which appear to me to be brought as low as prudence will admit; and you will participate with me in the ſatisfaction which I feel in this ſtep towards the relief of my ſubjects. At the end of a war, ſome part of its weight muſt inevitably be borne, for a time. I feel for the burdens of my people; but I rely on that fortitude which has hitherto ſupported this nation under many difficulties, for their bearing thoſe which the preſent exigencies require, and which are ſo neceſſary for the full ſupport of national credit.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"In many reſpects our ſituation is new. Your councils will provide what is called for by that ſituation: and your wiſdom will give permanence to whatever has been found beneficial by the experience of ages. In your deliberations you will preſerve that temper and moderation which the importance of their object demands, and will, I have no doubt, produce; and I am ſure that you are unanimous in your deſire to direct all thoſe deliberations to the honour of my Crown, the ſafety of my dominions, and proſperity the of my people."

After the ſpeech, his Majeſty retired, and the Commons withdrew. The Houſe again adjourned, during pleaſure, to unrobe, and being reſumed, his Royal Highneſs went to the table, and took the oaths, which were adminiſtered to him by the Clerk Aſſiſtant. Lord Hertford and Lord Hampden afterwards took the uſual oaths.

[The debates in both Houſes on the Addreſſes, in our next.]

MONTHLY REGISTER OF HISTORICAL AFFAIRS.

FOREIGN.

Conſtantinople, Sept. 25.

"THE plague ſtill continues in this Capital, and the mortality has rather encreaſed during the laſt fifteen days."—*L. Gaz.*

Salonica, Sept. 10. "On the 6th inſtant, we had two ſmart ſhocks of an earthquake. On the 8th, at half paſt eight in the morning, we had a very violent one: and, in the ſpace of a quarter of an hour, three others, and eleven more within the twenty-four hours. Part of the city walls, a bagnio, and ſome other buildings were thrown down.—*L. Gaz.*

Perterſburgh, Sept. 19. "Within theſe few days an Engliſh merchant ſhip has arrived here, with fifty naval officers of that nation; and we ſhortly expect a much greater number, as we are informed our Court has engaged 140 in its ſervice. Orders have juſt been diſpatched to the regiments of infantry in the ſeveral provinces of this empire, to march immediately two companies each towards Poland and the frontiers of Turkey."

Munich, Oct. "The King of Sweden arrived here the 22d in the evening: and, on Friday the 25th, he ſet out early in the morning for Inſpruck, to purſue his journey to Italy."

Hague, Oct. 15. "His Royal Highneſs the Biſhop of Oſnaburgh ſent has to the States General a letter, written with his own hand, informing them of his having entered on the poſſeſſion of his Biſhoprick."

Amſterdam, Oct. 22. "Yeſterday morning, about eleven o'clock, the Rhynland man of war, in the port of Helder, took fire by ſome unknown accident, and was conſumed.

"The veſſel being put out of commiſſion, all the heavy artillery had been taken out of her, and afterwards the powder. The crew had been ordered to ſweep away the powder that ſhould be ſhed, and the Captain recommended to them to be particularly careful. H was writing in his cabin when the accident happened, and the veſſel received a ſudden ſhock, which overturned the table that ſtood before him. He got out of the cabin, but found the ſhip all in flames. They were not able to ſave any thing. It is thought that fifty perſons periſhed on this occaſion. Some ſay, that half the crew, which conſiſted of 110 men, are loſt. The ſuperior officers, it is believed, are all ſaved."

By a gentleman lately arrived from Italy, who came from Conſtantinople thither, we are informed, that the Turks have not been for an age in ſo good a ſtate of preparation as at preſent; their army amounts to 360,000 men; they have a field of artillery of 700 pieces, with above 400 French and German officers; and all their ſtores and magazines full and in good order. The whole empire calls out for war.

By a letter of a very late date from Peterſburgh, it appears, that the ſurgeons and officers that went into the ſervice of the Empreſs are not yet appointed, although they have been in three months expectation, to their reſpective ſhips and regiments. The gentleman who wrote the letter is himſelf one of the ſurgeons. He ſays, that from this procraſtination it is generally ſuppoſed, that all differences between Ruſſia and the Sublime Porte will be ſoon accommodated, or at leaſt that there will be no hoſtilities during this winter.

Private letters from Rome bring the diſagreeable intelligence, that about ſi

thouſand children died lately in that metropolis of the ſmall pox within the ſpace of three months.

The quarrel between his Pruſſian Majeſty and the inhabitants of the city of Dantzic originates in the latter claiming what is called the right of mart, and the right of ſtaple. By the firſt they pretend that all veſſels from foreign parts coming into the Viſtula, ſhall diſpoſe of their cargoes in that city. By the latter they claim the like privilege of monopolizing the cargoes of all veſſels coming down the Viſtula. In conſequence of this the city of Dantzic in April laſt fitted out a number of armed cruizers to ſeize the Pruſſian veſſels that ſupplied the towns of Old and New Scotland, lately ceded to his Majeſty, with corn, which the Dantzickers pretend muſt be purchaſed only from them.

The following proclamation does the higheſt honour to the feelings of the King of Pruſſia, who therein pays the moſt commendable regard to the dignity of man:

"Whereas, his Majeſty the King of Pruſſia, &c. our moſt gracious ſovereign, will not permit that any of his ſubjects, delivering into his hand petitions or addreſſes, ſhould kneel to his Majeſty (an honour due to the divinity, but which is no ways neceſſary when his ſaid ſubjects have any thing to deliver to him); his Majeſty is therefore graciouſly pleaſed to order by this preſent, that the conſiſtory of Breſlau ſhall cauſe this reſcript to be read from the pulpits of all the evangelic churches in the province of Sileſia, and the Suffragans of Roth-Kirck to do the ſame in the Roman Catholic church, and that all and every one may be informed it is his Majeſty's pleaſure, that no kneeling ſhall in future be practiſed in honour to his perſon. The Supreme Conſiſtory ſhall therefore take the neceſſary ſteps to the above purpoſe.

Given at Bettlern, Aug. 50. 1783.

Signed FREDERICK."

Advices from Hamburgh mention that a bank on a new plan was erecting at Berlin. The different effects of plenty and ſcarcity of money have not eſcaped the penetrating genius of the Sovereign of Pruſſia. This monarch indeed always retains in his treaſury ſix or ſeven millions Sterling for anſwering unforeſeen demands; but being ſenſible that the withdrawing from circulation any larger ſum would be prejudicial to commerce, every farthing ſaved from the neceſſary expence of government is laid out upon buildings, upon operas, in ſhort, upon any thing rather than cramp circulation. In his Pruſſian Majeſty's metropolis, therefore, a bank eſtabliſhed for lending money muſt promote induſtry and manufactures in an eminent degree.

The King of Pruſſia's conſtitution has broke more in the laſt ſix months than for ſome years before. He has for two years paſt drank freely of Madeira wine, which was preſcribed him by his phyſicians for a ſtomach complaint, but it is now ſuppoſed that they miſtook the caſe. It is ſaid in Germany that one reaſon for the Emperor giving way to a negociation with the Turks, was the faſt decline of his Pruſſian Majeſty, as, in caſe of his death, it is well known that all the Imperial armies will march immediately into Sileſia, and conſequently kindle a general war in Europe.

There is a ſort of ſuperſtitious notion among the Pruſſian ſoldiers, that they ſhall no longer be victorious than while the King lives; which, after his death, will probably be a principal reaſon of their being beat by every enemy.

The failure of La Caiſſe d'Eſcompte, the national bank of France, turns out as well as can be expected, a failure for a ſum twelve times larger than the capital the Company ever had in trade!—By the above-mentioned bankruptcy, of foreigners who are loſers, the Dutch are the moſt affected, the Engliſh happily the leaſt.

A gentleman who was at Paris the day their diſcount bank ſtopped payment, informs us, that great part of the money of the bank being lent to the French government, was ſuppoſed to be the chief cauſe of their failure;—It had been ſtipulated, that the money lent was to be returned in ſpecie on demand; but when the bank demanded the caſh, about ten or twelve waggons, with about one thouſand weight (half a ton) of ſilver each, was all the ſpecie that the French Exchequer could then muſter; and as the whole did not exceed 50,000l. ſterling, it was ſoon paid away, and the bank obliged to ſhut up. The French Miniſtry are buſy at all their mints in melting down their plate, and turning it into current money. Many other failures

have happened in conſequence of their ſtoppage.

When the Bank of Paris ſtopped payment, ſeveral perſons, anxious to receive the notes they had in their poſſeſſion, puſhed with ſuch violence to get up to the uſual place of payment, that many of them ruſhed on the ſoldiers bayonets, who were obliged to have recourſe to violence, to prevent a tumult.

The failure of the Caiſſe d'Eſcompte has affected not only the French Banks, but even ſeveral great houſes in Spain and Holland.

We hear from Bezancon (a large town about 200 miles from Paris), that a very great bankruptcy has taken place in that city, fifteen houſes having ſtopped payment for four hundred and fifty thouſand pounds in the whole.

According to letters from Paris, the King had ſent orders to his ambaſſador at the Hague, to concert meaſures with the Dutch for the more ſpeedy payment of the monies due from Holland to France for protecting their territories during the war; immediately after which the French troops will be ordered to evacuate Trincomale, the Cape of Good Hope, St Euſtatia, &c. and the Dutch be immediately put again into poſſeſſion of them ſolely; but the Duc de Vauguyon is inſtructed to ſay, that in the preſent ſituation of affairs his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty cannot poſſibly conſider himſelf ſafe in withdrawing his troops, till the ſeveral expences incurred are at leaſt put into ſome train of liquidation.

Advices are received from Paris, that the Queen of France has miſcarried at Fountainbleau, but is in a fair way of recovery.

The ſame accounts aſſure us that a change has taken place in the French Miniſtry.

There are letters in France from the French Admiral in the Eaſt Indies, ſaying, that his fleet was in ſo diſabled a condition that he was obliged to lie in harbour: and as the news of the peace muſt arrive a few weeks after the dates of thoſe letters, all further hoſtilities between the two fleets would of courſe ceaſe.

The Bruſſels Gazette has the following curious article, under the head Paris, October 16. "Meſſrs Edouard Dillon, Pilaſtre du Rozier, and De Montgolfier, by the help of air balloons, raiſed themſelves twenty feet high into the air:—This was performed before the Duke de Chartres, in the garden of the Sieur Reueillon, in the Fauxbourg St Antoine. From the ſucceſs of this trial, as it were, in miniature, the above gentlemen have reſolved to pilot one of theſe wonderful engines through the air." Thus far the Flemiſh writer. We do not take upon ourſelves to vouch for the truth of this aerial experiment; and we dare ſay few of our readers will be diſpoſed to give implicit credit to the account, when they reflect on the ſource from whence we have drawn it.

It is the general opinion, that the Dutch have immenſe treaſures buried under the Stadt-houſe, which are never to ſee the light unleſs when the immediate ſafety of their commonwealth is concerned. In the late war it was propoſed to bring forth ſome of this immenſe maſs of wealth, when on examination there appeared ſuch a decreaſe of it that the matter was dropped, and the buſineſs huſhed up till a proper opportunity offered for inveſtigating the cauſe of this deficiency.

A private letter from Paris mentions, that three of the Dutch provinces had not yet agreed to the definitive treaty of peace, which prevented the bringing that important affair to an immediate concluſion.

Advices are received from Cadiz, that, ſince the affair at Algiers, the Barbary corſairs have become ſo exceedingly outrageous, and have captured great numbers of Spaniſh ſhips.

The fine new ſhip Succeſs, John Cavendiſh maſter, from Dublin to Philadelphia, was unfortunately caſt away within Cape Henlopen in Philadelphia Bay. The ſhip is totally loſt, and full of water; the people on board, aſſiſted by perſons from the ſhore, were endeavouring to ſave what goods they could out of the ſhip.

Extract of a letter from New-York, dated October 16. to an officer of the Maryland Loyaliſts.

"Dear Friend, with inexpreſſible grief I inform you, that not a man, woman, or child, of your corps, who embarked for Nova Scotia, are now in exiſtence. The unhappy fate of ſo many gallant friends tortures me with the moſt heart-breaking anguiſh; and the loſs of my poor dear child overwhelms my very ſoul with ſorrow and deſpair.

"This deplored event was yeſterday

communicated to me by Captain White, formerly of Philadelphia. He ſays, that about eight days ago, at Port Roſeway, he ſaw the maſter and part of the crew of the tranſport ſhip Martha, who had been taken up at ſea in a very diſtreſſed condition, by a fiſhing boat belonging to that port; that he was informed by —— Willis, the ſaid maſter, that he had commanded the Martha tranſport, which ſailed from New-York with a fleet deſtined for the river St John's; that he had on board the corps of Maryland Loyaliſts, and part of Colonel Ludlow's battalion; that on his paſſage he had ſeparated from the fleet, and on the 20th of September was ſtanding in for the coaſt, intending at four o'clock in the morning, at the calling of the watch, to tack and ſtand off again; that juſt before the time intended for coming about, the ſhip ſtruck on one of the ſunken rocks of Seal Iſland, within the mouth of the Bay of Fundy; that on her ſtriking, the ſoldiers were getting into great confuſion; but the officers, who, Willis ſays, behaved with the greateſt compoſure and intrepidity, drew their ſwords, took poſſeſſion of the gangway, and ordered that they ſhould not interfere with the duty of the ſailors, but reſign their fate to the maſter and crew; that therefore they were to obey their orders, and not to act untill called on for ſuch ſervices as might be in their power to render; that the maſts were ordered to be cut away, and the maſter, with part of the crew, were ſent in the ſmall boat with a kedge anchor, to try to heave her off; that mean time about ninety perſons were put on board of the long boat; that before ſhe could be put off from the ſide, a heavy ſwell of the ſea rolled away the ſhips maſts, when the yard went through the boat's bottom, and ever ſoul inſtantly periſhed; and after two or three minutes, the ſhip ſplit to pieces, and every perſon remaining in her periſhed, amounting altogether to two hundred and fifty; that he was diſtant about a hundred yards from the horrid ſcene, and perceived the officers to the very laſt, bravely exerting their efforts for the proper diſcipline and government of their men; that he continued for ſome days at ſea without proviſions and water, until he was taken up by a fiſhing veſſel, as recited.

"N. B. When this corps marched from Philadelphia, it conſiſted of about four hundred, of which number, including invalids, only twenty-two now remain."

Advices are received by the Diomede frigate, from New York, which ſhe left on the laſt day of September, that it was not then certainly known whether the final inſtructions for the evacuation of that city were arrived out from England. Sir Guy Carleton continued to hold communication with the Congreſs, with whom there were yet ſome meaſures to be ſettled before the Engliſh garriſon would quit their ports.

When the laſt advices came from New York, there was ſo great a want of tranſports to carry away the Loyaliſts, that it was feared the final evacuation of the place would be delayed till near the end of the year; the Governor was on all occaſions particularly attentive to the intereſts of thoſe unfortunate people, and deſirous of ſeeing them ſafely ſettled in Halifax, before he withdrew the troops.

A letter from Halifax ſays, that the new inhabitants are ſo much diſtreſſed for want of ſlaves to clear the land that is alloted to each, that they have fitted out two veſſels to go to the ſlave trade, on the coaſt of Africa, having been diſappointed of the convicts from England which was expected there ſome time ago.

The laſt accounts from America bring information, that ſeveral gentlemen waited on Sir Guy Carleton, on the 8th of Auguſt, with a memorial, in which are the following paſſages:

"That your memorialiſts having been deprived of very valuable landed eſtates, and conſiderable perſonal properties without the lines, and being alſo obliged to abandon their poſſeſſions in this city, on account of their loyalty to their Sovereign, and attachment to the Britiſh conſtitution, and ſeeing no proſpect of their being re-inſtated, had determined to remove with their families, and ſettle in his Majeſty's Province of Nova-Scotia, on the terms which they underſtood were held out equally to all his Majeſty's perſecuted ſubjects.

"That your Memorialiſts are much alarmed at an application which they are informed 55 perſons have joined in to your Excellency, ſoliciting a recommendation for tracts of land in that province, amounting together to 275,000 acres; and that they have diſpatched forward agents to ſurvey the unlocated lands, and ſelect the moſt fertile ſpots, and deſirable ſituations."

The memorial was ſigned by 630 perſons.

His Excellency returned an anſwer to the following effect:

"That his Excellency, within theſe few days, has had reaſon to believe, that no one perſon will obtain a larger grant of land in Nova Scotia than 1000 acres. That the power of iſſuing patents for lands there reſides ſolely in the Governor, to whom his Excellency will immediately forward the memorial; which, he apprehends, will arrive before patents can be made out for the tract of land mentioned in it. And that it was his opinion, no perſons ſhould be allowed to take up lands in that province, but thoſe who meant to reſide there, till the Loyaliſts are firſt ſerved; and that his Excellency will do every thing in his power for the memorialiſts, and believes they will have no cauſe to complain.

"The Committee were alſo informed, from the moſt reſpectable authority, that the report of all the lands being occupied about Port-Roſeway is groundleſs. Governor Parr, who is extremely ſolicitous to do juſtice to every individual, having made a reſerve of a ſufficient quantity of land there, for the accommodation of thoſe Loyaliſts who ſtill purpoſe to embark for that place."

The Succeſs frigate, commanded by Captain Pole, has brought to England, from the merchants of Jamaica, three hundred and fifty thouſand dollars, conſigned to their correſpondents of London, Briſtol, and Liverpool. This remittance in coin is owing to an unuſual balance in favour of this country, occaſioned by the great conſumption of our manufactures during the time Lord Rodney's ſquadron, with the captured ſhips taken from De Graſſe, lay at Jamaica. The dollars taken on board thoſe ſhips, together with the private property of the priſoners, has made money very plentiful in that iſland.

On the 30th of October, the Aſia Eaſt Indiaman, Captain Maw, from Coaſt and China, arrived ſafe in the Downs. She ſailed on her outward bound voyage the 20th of February 1781.

The Eaſt India Company are drawing up an account of their loſſes during the war, from January 1775, to December 1782, in order to lay them before the two Houſes of Parliament. Duplicates are alſo to be provided, in order that the whole of the buſineſs may be brought before both Houſes at the ſame time.

Six of the Eaſt India Company's ſhips which are taken up for the preſent year, will be ready to ſail the beginning of next month.

We have it from very good authority, that the treaty with the Dutch is on the point of being finally ſettled.

The Dutch have certainly offered an equivalent for the reſtoration of Negapatnam, which Miniſtry will immediately lay before Parliament, in order to take their opinion on it.

General Elliot, ſince the ſiege of Gibraltar, has been over to the Barbary ſhore, with Sir Roger Curtis, in the Brilliant. He had ſcarce landed when he was ſurrounded by the natives, proſtrating themſelves, ſinging, and doing him every poſſible homage. The women brought him figs, almonds, olives, oranges, &c. In ſhort, he was ſo loaded with favours, and ſo much company, that he went but a very ſhort way into the country.

From the magnificent preſents preparing for the Emperor of Morocco; from the extraordinary conceſſions made to him by the Governor of Gibraltar, relative to his cruizers; and from the character and connections of the gentleman appointed to that Court, we may reaſonably conclude that ſome important ſervices from that quarter are looked to, upon any rupture with Spain.

The King has appointed George Payne, Eſq; to be his Majeſty's Conſul-general in all the Dominions of the Emperor of Morocco.

On the 8th General Boyd arrived in town from Gibraltar, and on Thurſday laſt was introduced to their Majeſties.

Captain M'Kenzie, charged with the murder of a ſerjeant, by firing him from the mouth of a cannon, at a fort on the coaſt of Africa, is to be tried by ſpecial commiſſion, which has not come down, as yet, to the Old Bailey.

The purchaſe which the Regency of Hanover lately made in the funds is rather a favourable ſign; for ſurely his Majeſty would not lay out his money, were there the leaſt apprehenſion of the ſecurity.

The Committee appointed by the merchants, &c. to oppoſe the receipt tax, are exerting themſelves in the moſt vigorous manner, to obtain its repeal this ſeſſion of Parliament. Subſcriptions have

been already entered into for defraying the expence. The gentlemen in the linen and tea way have been very liberal on the occaſion; the banking-houſes have politely offered their aſſiſtance, and the goldſmith,s haberdaſhers, and other eminent traders, have declared their readineſs when called on to pay their quotas in the common cauſe.

Miniſtry, it is ſaid, are determined to enforce the receipt-tax, by altering the act, making the vender find a proper receipt, with a ſevere penalty upon any perſon giving a receipt without a legal ſtamp.

The great national objects, which it is ſaid his Majeſty and the preſent Miniſtry have in contemplation are,

1. To maintain the true honour of the Crown inviolate, as by law eſtabliſhed.

2. To reduce the national debt, and ſoften the burdens of the people as much as poſſible.

3. To give the utmoſt freedom to trade, and ſupport the merchants.

4. To maintain a proper naval eſtabliſhment, and the ancient dignity of the Britiſh flag.

5. To conſider affectionately, and in the moſt cool and unprejudiced manner, the claims of the people of Ireland, and generouſly to grant whatever may promote the true happineſs, the honour of ſo gallant a people, and the mutual confidence of both countries.

6. To inveſtigate free from all party conſiderations, the affairs of the Honourable Eaſt Indıa Company, and to promote its true intereſt.

7. To attend with vigilance and purſue with ardour, every object productive of proſperity to the people.

We hear that early in the ſeſſion a bill will be brought into parliament for laying a tax on the landed property in Scotland. The Miniſter propoſes great advantages from this meaſure, and therefore will enforce it with the ſtrongeſt exertions; and as a conſiderable ſupply is expected to be thereby raiſed, it may be conſidered as a certainty, that the bill will be annual, and under the Engliſh land-tax regulations.

The intention of the Iriſh, to admit the Roman Catholics into places of truſt, as Proteſtants, is not attended with thoſe alarms which once it might have excited. Ambition and avarice have ſo completely overcome religion, that there is no occaſion to apprehend danger from pious zeal, where profit does not go along with it.

To ſuch an extraordinary length of importance have ſome of the Iriſh delegates carried matters, that one of that body very lately franked the cover of a letter, ſubſcribing his name as delegate of a ſpecific province, and adding theſe words at the bottom of the cover, "Eraſe this name who dare." This menace had an effect; and the letter actually paſſed as if franked by a member of Parliament.

The income of the Biſhop of Derry, including his eſtates in England and Ireland, amounts to thirty-two thouſand pounds.

The ton of dreſs is not yet ſettled, but it is ſaid the Princeſs Royal leads; and to ſhew her affection to a ſiſter kingdom, ſhe ſets out on the birth-day in poplin. The Iriſh, however, are not to claim all the merit; for the poplin is to be Britiſh manufacture, and to vie with the ſecond ſtaple commodity of that kingdom. At the Caſtle of Dublin, poplins and tabinets are to be laid aſide, and cloth is to be the faſhion, in order to ſhew buſineſs. This is a conteſt far preferable to that of arms, and promiſes to rouſe and give bread to the ſlumbering manufacturers of both countries.

Stays remarkably high to the chin, long in the waiſt, and broad in their termination, together with a ceſtus faſtened by a buckle, are ſaid to form part of the faſhionable winter undreſs at Paris.

On Sunday morning, the 19th ult. a duel was fought in a field near Batterſea-Bridge, between Captain Leeſon and the Reverend Mr Dunbar, when, after firing their piſtols, the matter was accommodated to their mutual ſatisfaction. Mr D. then went to perform divine ſervice at a pariſh church to which he has been lately appointed curate. In this we think there is nothing wrong; for, after trying to take away the life of a fellow-creature, nothing can be ſo proper as to go to prayers, and make our peace with the Deity.

Monday the 26th ult. Mr Munro of the 16th dragoons, and Mr Green, with their ſeconds, met in a field near Batterſea-Bridge. They took their ground at the diſtance of about ſix yards, and fired three piſtols each, the laſt of which wounded Mr G. in the ſide: upon which the ſeconds interfered, and aſked Mr G.

if he was ſatisfied. He ſaid not, unleſs Mr M. made him a public apology.—*That*, Mr M. ſaid. he *now* would not do. Mr G. replied, "one of us then muſt fall." They, therefore, again took their ground, and fired each two piſtols more, when one ball entered Mr Munro's knee, and Mr Green received a ſhot a little above the groin. He was taken to the Swan at Knightſbridge, and as the ball could not be extracted, he died next morning about two o'clock.

The unhappy quarrel by which Mr Green loſt his life, originated in a gambling tranſaction, and was renewed by a quarrel reſpecting a demi-rep. The ſurviving principal and the ſeconds are gone off.

It is not unworthy of remark, that the ſcene of action near Batterſea, where Mr Green fell, is the very field in which Villars, Duke of Buckingham, fought a duel with, and killed his antagoniſt, the Earl of Shrewſbury, in the reign of King Charles II.

We are aſſured from good authority, that the practice of duelling has become an object of royal conſideration, and that the Secretary of State will have orders to deliver a meſſage to Parliament reſpecting it.

Early on Tueſday morning the 4th Rear Admiral F——ke ſhot himſelf at his houſe in Southampton. The noiſe of the piſtol alarmed one of the ſervants, who ran immediately to his room, where he was found lying acroſs the bed, with the diſcharged piſtol near him, and another loaded in his pocket. The ball entered the top part of his head, where it lodged. He had attempted ſome time before to deſtroy himſelf, but was prevented. The Jury ſat on the body, and brought in their verdict lunacy. The cauſe of the Admiral's taking ſo deſperate a ſtep, is ſaid to have been the miſconduct of a beautiful daughter, on whom he doated, and whoſe calamity brought ſuch diſtreſs upon his mind, as (though a man of uncommon reſolution) to become at length inſupportable.

Tueſday the 20th ult. ten malefactors, all highwaymen, were executed at Tyburn purſuant to their ſentence, viz. John Booker, alias Broker, William Moore, John Francis, John Burton, John Anderſon, Thomas Duxton, John Pilkington, Matthew Daniel, James Neale, alias John Nowland, John Starkey and Thomas Smith. As they were proceeding from Newgate to the place of execution, the carts were met by one of the King's meſſengers, who arrived at the critical opportunity with a reſpite for a fortnight, for Duxton.

Saturday the 1ſt Mr Blaggini ſent off an aroſtatical globe from Noble-ſtreet, Cheap-ſide. It appeared over Smithfield and Alderſgate-ſtreet, but no intelligence has yet been received of its having fallen.

On Saturday the 11th ult. as Meſſrs Pickerſgill's Newcaſtle waggon, with eight horſes, was paſſing over the bridge at Boroughbridge, heavily loaded with wool, it was met upon the ſummit by another loaded waggon, and the bridge being very narrow, it occaſioned them to come ſo near the parapet walls to let each other paſs, that forty feet of ſaid wall gave way, together with the pavement the wheels were upon, ſo that Meſſrs Pickerſgill's waggon was overturned into the river, by which means four of the horſes were killed; and the other four would certainly have ſhared the ſame fate, had they not broke looſe in the waggon's deſcent.

A few days ago a potatoe was taken up in a field of Matthew Wilkinſon, a farmer of Mr Hodgſon's of Blennerhaſſet, in Cumberland, which weighed 2 3-4ths lib. and meaſured 22 1-half inches in circumference.—A remarkable inſtance of the extraordinary growth of that uſeful root.

Tueſday the 21ſt ult. ſeveral prizes of hats, breeches, and frocks, were *ploughed* for in the common fields of Odiham, in Hampſhire, and determined in the preſence of near 2000 ſpectator, among whom were the principal gentry of the town and neighbourhood, and a very reſpectable body of yeomanry. There appeared upon the ground fifteen candidates for the prizes, who drew lots for the order of ploughing. Every man's work was diſtinguiſhed by the number of his lot, in order to prevent the appearance of partiality in the umpires, who did not appear on the ground till the whole work was compleated. The victorious candidates were conducted on horſeback into the town, amidſt the approbation and applauſe of their fellow-labourers, who ſeemed to have caught that emulation which the inſtitution of the ſociety, who gave the prizes, was intended to excite.—How infinitely ſuperior are conteſts of this kind to thoſe

groſs and ſavage competitions of back-ſwords, cock-fighting, &c. And it is difficult to aſcertain upon what motive men are not to be as well amuſed in the view of conteſts which do credit to the community, as in thoſe which have a contrary tendency.

SCOTLAND.

The following Addreſs from the freeholders of Inverneſs was preſented to the King by Lord North, on the 8th curt. and graciouſly received.

To the KING's Moſt Excellent Majeſty. The humble Addreſs of the Freeholders of the County of Inverneſs.

WE, your Majeſty's very dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the Freeholders of the county of Inverneſs, aſſembled at the Michaelmas Head Court, beg leave to congratulate your Majeſty on the birth of a young Princeſs, on the recovery of our moſt amiable Queen from a late dangerous illneſs, and on his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales attaining to the year of majority; and your Majeſty may be aſſured that we ſhall always feel particular ſatisfaction in whatever has a tendency to ſtrengthen and perpetuate the Hanoverian line of ſucceſſion to the Crown of Great Britain.—It is with grateful hearts we acknowledge your Majeſty's paternal goodneſs in the late ſupply of proviſions ſent to the poor of this country, which has proved a moſt ſeaſonable relief to many of your ſubjects, reduced through want of ſubſiſtence to a moſt deplorable condition.

Signed by our appointment, by
SIMON FRASER, Preſes.

Inverneſs, Oct. 7. 1703.

His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales, as Prince and Steward of Scotland, has granted the Right Honourable Henry Erſkine, his Majeſty's Advocate for Scotland, Sir Thomas Dundas of Kerſe, Bart. Charles Dundas, Eſq: repreſentative in Parliament for the counties of Orkney and Zetland; Alexander Ferguſon of Craigdarroch, Eſq; advocate; together with the Honourable Keith Elphinſtone, His Highneſs's Secretary, Steward, and Chamberlain of the Principality of Scotland, a commiſſion appointing them to be his Counſellors or Commiſſioners, for the proper arrangement, and [illegible] management of his Royal Highneſs affairs in Scotland.

Extract of a letter from Greenock, Nov. 14.

"We learn, that Captain Hamilton, of the Prince William Henry revenue cutter, has ſeized a Dutch built dogger, belonging to the north of Ireland, with between 200 and 300 ankers of geneva, and carried her into Stornoway.

"Laſt week a large ſmuggling cutter, mounting 26 nine-pounders, with 100 men, had the impudence to come into the Frith, and diſcharge part of her cargo, conſiſting of tea, brandy, china, ſilks, &c. notwithſtanding three revenue cutters are now in the Mull of Kintyre, each carrying from 16 to 18 guns.

"A few days ago arrived here the Polly tranſport, Wharton, from Newfoundland, with two additional companies of the 71ſt regiment on board, commanded by Captain John Macdonald."

The ſhip Blandford which left Jamaica the 28th Auguſt, on the 6th Sept. was caſt away on the Iſle of Pines. She had good boats which ſaved the lives.

The Grange, Kinnear, from Clyde to Virginia, after being ſix weeks out, ſprung a leak at ſea; and, after heaving a good deal of the cargo overboard, and finding every attempt to ſtop the leak unſucceſsful, ſhe was nearly going down, when luckily ſhe ſucked in ſome ſea-weed, which choaked the leak, by which means the ſhip, with about eighty or ninety paſſengers, were providentially ſaved, and bore away for Liſbon, where ſhe is arrived.

The number of veſſels either gone, or preparing to go upon the northweſt fiſheries of Ireland, this ſeaſon, amount to 600.

Monday the 10th current a veſſel of 100 tons ſailed through the new cut from the Grange mouth to the Holmerie. The above veſſel is the firſt that paſt this navigation.

Tueſday the 21ſt ult. Luke Forſter, a blackſmith in Alnwick, was attacked near Hefferley-bank, by two men, who, without ſpeaking, knocked him off his horſe with a large bludgeon, and afterwards cut him in a terrible manner. The villains ſuppoſing him to be dead, threw him over a hedge, after robbing him of two ſhillings of ſilver, being all the money he had. When he was ſomewhat recovered, he found his horſe about a mile from the place where he was robbed. All that he could recollect, after he received the firſt ſtroke, was one of them ſaying to the other, "It is not Guthrie,

for he has got no bags;" ſo that it is ſuppoſed they took him for the Berwick carrier.

We hear from Nairn, that at the fair there appeared a fine ſhow of cattle, which ſold faſt and at great prices.

Thurſday the 6th, at the new market at Laurence-kirk, there was a great ſhow of cattle, which ſold faſt and at great prices; linens, yarn, and other manufactures of the country, likewiſe met with ready ſale and good prices. This market, from its ſituation, and the well choſen time of its being held, bids fair to be of permanent advantage to the country.

Tueſday the 4th, being the fair of Down, there was a very great ſhow of cattle and horſes: but ſo great was the demand for the former from all quarters, that they were inſtantly ſold off at uncommon high prices, and a number of purchaſers were diſappointed. Such a market is not remembered to have been ſeen in that place. Horſes did not ſell ſo high.

The accounts from almoſt every part of the country mention the ſtate of the crop as being extremely good. In Angus ſhire, and all the ſouthern diſtrict, they have not had a more heavy crop theſe twenty years. In the neighbourhood of Banff, and along the coaſt eaſtward, potatoes are at five pence a peck, and oat-meal under a ſhilling.

The attention of the gentlemen in Scotland to the diſtreſs of their tenants and dependants, occaſioned by the failure of the laſt year's crop, does them great honour.—Among many inſtances of generoſity we are happy to mention the following: Baron Stewart Moncrieffe has directed his factors to remit the half of laſt year's rent to ſuch of his tenants as have corn farms, and one third of the rent to ſuch as have their chief dependance upon grazing, in all his eſtates in the county of Fife.

KELSO RACES.

On Monday, Oct. 24. the races began at Kelſo, when a purſe of Fifty Pounds was run for over Caverton Edge, and won by

Mr Baird's cheſnut horſe Sandy o'er-the-Lee,	1	1
Captain Hamilton's horſe, Rapier,	2	2

On Tueſday, a purſe of Fifty Pounds was run for over the ſame courſe, and won by

Lord Surry's bay horſe, Captain Tart,	2	2	1	1
Duke of Hamilton's grey filly, Expectation,	1	3	2	3
Mr Gregſon's bay horſe, Shepherd,	4	1	3	2
Mr Robinſon's black mare, Laura,	3	4	dr.	

This race afforded excellent ſport.

On Wedneſday, a Maiden Plate was run for over the ſame courſe, and won by

Mr Graham's bay mare, Little-thought-of,	1	1
Mr Weatherall's grey mare,	2	3
Mr Coulſon's cheſnut horſe, Little John,	3	2
Mr Gregſon's bay colt, Adieu,	4	6
Mr Thomſon's bay mare, Blameleſs,	5	4
William Ridley's bay mare, Tryal,	6	5
Mr Watſon's horſe, Robbinhood,	diſt.	

Same day, there was a match between Sir Alexander Don's horſe Buff, and Mr Gregſon's horſe, Bacchus, for fifty guineas each, which was won by the former.

Thurſday a purſe of Fifty Guineas, given by the Caledonian Hunt, was run for over the ſame courſe, and won by

Sir Alexander Don's cheſnut horſe, Friar,	1	1
Mr Baird's cheſnut horſe, Signora,	2	2
Sir Archibald Hope's grey horſe, Grenadier,	3	3

Friday a plate of Fifty Guineas, given by the Hunt, was run for, and won by

Mr Baird's cheſnut horſe, Sandy-o'er-the-Lee,	1
Sir Alexander Don's bay horſe, Buff,	2

Same day, there was a hack race, for which five horſes ſtarted, and was won, at two heats, by Mr Thomſon of Kittiemuir's bay horſe.

The main of cocks between Sir Alexander Don and Mr Baird, was decided on Friday in favour of the former.

On Monday the 3d inſt. a match was run between Newcaſtle and Edinburgh, for 200 guineas, by Mr Gregſon, and Mr Holmes leather-cutter in Newcaſtle, which was won by Mr Gregſon. Mr Gregſon alſo undertook, for a bett of 50 l. to ride through in 15 hours, the diſtance being 105 miles, and he arrived at

Edinburgh in 11 hours. Mr Holmes's horſe gave up before he reached Whittingham, and we hear is ſince dead.

On Friday Oct. 30. was executed at Aberdeen, William Burnett, in purſuance of his ſentence at laſt circuit, for ſtealing a mare and an ox. His behaviour was very proper for his unhappy ſituation.

On Wedneſday the 12th, a woman threw herſelf into one of the coal-pits at Govan coal-work, and was killed.

On Sunday the 2d current, at one o'clock in the morning, a moſt alarming fire broke out in Mr Cunningham's diſtillery near Dundee, which almoſt entirely conſumed the ſame before any aſſiſtance could be got.—Fortunately the premiſſes were inſured.

Tueſday the 11th, the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale met here, and was opened with an excellent diſcourſe by the Reverend Mr Gourlay at Crichton, the former moderator, when the Reverend Dr John Walker miniſter of Collington, and Profeſſor of Natural Hiſtory in the Univerſity of Edinburgh, was choſen moderator. They had no buſineſs before them, only ordered Thurſday, 15th of January next, to be obſerved as a day of public thankſgiving within their bounds, on account of the good harveſt, and the reſtoration of peace; but, in caſe any ſuch appintment is iſſued by his Majeſty, the day fixed by the proclamation is to be kept.

On Wedneſday the 29th ult. came down his Majeſty's commiſſion to Alexander Wight, Eſq; to be his Majeſty's Solicitor General for Scotland.

Wedneſday the Court of Seſſion met for the winter ſeſſion. The bench was remarkably full. The Lord Advocate and Solicitor (the Honourable Henry Erſkine and Alexander Wight, Eſq;) were received in their new offices, and took the oaths accordingly.

The univerſity of Edinburgh is ſo crowded this ſeaſon, that ſome of the profeſſors have been obliged to procure larger rooms than thoſe allotted for them within the precincts of the College. Dr Monro, who built for himſelf the largeſt and moſt commodious claſs-room in the College, is obliged to add a gallery for the accommodation of his numerous ſtudents. When claſs-rooms are to be built, what a pity that they ſhould not be upon ſuch a plan, that in time we might have a regular and elegant building, without feeling the expence.

On Saturday the 15th inſtant, the Right Hon. Edmund Burke was unanimouſly elected Lord Rector of the Univerſity of Glaſgow.

The ſame day the gentlemen of that Univerſity celebrated the anniverſary of the matriculation of their late generous benefactor Dr Hunter.

On Friday the 31ſt ult. the univerſity of Glaſgow conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws upon Mr William Thomſon of Great Ormond-ſtreet, London, the continuator of Watſon's Hiſtory, author of the Man of the Moon, &c.

On Tueſday the 4th current the univerſity of Glaſgow, after the uſual private and public trials, conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine on Lieutenant Alexander M'Lachlan, of his Majeſty's late Weſt Fencible regiment, and on Mr John Simpſon of Yorkſhire.

The incorporation of ſhoemakers in Glaſgow have unanimouſly voted a gold chain and medal to their Deacon, to be worn upon all public occaſions. The like honorary badge of diſtinction, it is expected, will be adopted by the other incorporations.

The Merchant Company have unanimouſly entered into ſeveral reſolutions in order to procure a repeal of the receipt tax.

The Silver Club given by the city of Edinburgh to the Society of Golfers, was, on Saturday laſt, played for on the Links of Leith, and won by Mr William Inglis, ſurgeon in Edinburgh.

Liſt of Marriages, Baptiſms, and Burials, within the City of Edinburgh, for the laſt five Months.

	Marriages.	Baptisms.		Burials.
		Males.	*Females.*	
June	22	32	21	55
July	29	40	29	50
Auguſt	21	23	18	46
Sept.	36	25	19	52
Oct.	32	21	16	37
	140	103	140	240

MARRIAGES.

Oct. 25. At ——, Sir Andrew Lauder of Fountainhall, Bart. to Miſs Brown, daughter of Thomas Brown of Johnſtonburn, Eſq;

Nov. 4. At Powderhall, near Edinburgh, Captain Charles Thompſon, of the royal navy, to Miſs Jane Selby, youngeſt daughter of Robert Selby of Bonnyhaugh, Eſq;

5. At Claſgow, Mr Dugald Stewart, profeſſor of mathematics in the univerſity of Edinburgh, to Miſs Bannatyne, daughter of the late Mr Neil Bannatyne, merchant.

9. At Weſter Livelands, James Chriſtie, Eſq; to Miſs Maitland, daughter of the Hon. Charles Barclay Maitland.

BIRTH.

Oct. 29. At Galloway-houſe, the Counteſs of Galloway, of a ſon, being her fifteenth child.

DEATHS.

Jan. —. In India, Captain Alexander Mackenzie, of the 73d regiment, ſon to Kenneth Mackenzie of Dundonnell, Eſq;

Oct. 10. At Bath, Lady Ann Duſign, ſiſter of the late Earl of Hyndford.

——. At Paris, Monſ. Pouble, a ſurgeon, of a very extraordinary diſeaſe—in conſequence of catching cold after a fatiguing walk. All his limbs became more or leſs painful, and by degrees became bent in different directions. His right leg and thigh were ſo bent, that the latter adhered to his belly and breaſt, and his leg was fixed in the ſame manner to his thigh. His head and vertebræ were ſtiff and motionleſs. After his death, on diſſection, all the bones were found ſoft and fragile, and the earthy part of them in a great degree deſtroyed; inſtead of ſinking, they ſwam in water. In the patient's life-time, it was remarked, when put into the warm bath, he floated, and required the aſſiſtance of two perſons to keep him under water. The faculty of phyſic at Paris conſider this complaint as a ſpecies of medullary gout.

18. At Peterſburgh, of an apoplexy, —— Euler, in the 77th year of his age.—He was reckoned the greateſt mathematician ſince the days of Newton and Leibnitz. He acquired his high fame under the patronage of the King of Pruſſia, who made him Preſident of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin; but having had ſome difference with that monarch, he applied to the Empreſs of Ruſſia, who gave him the ſame honourable charge in the Imperial Academy of Peterſburgh, with a princely proviſion.—When he left Berlin he was ſucceeded by a gentleman from Turin, in Piedmont, called Signor La Grangia, who ſtill holds the place of Preſident in the ſaid Academy of Berlin, and has given repeated proofs of his tranſcendant abilities in every branch of the mathematics.—The firſt preſident of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin was Maupertuis, the great antagoniſt of Voltaire. Euler was made preſident after the death of Maupertuis.

19. At ——, Patrick Leſlie, Eſq; Captain of his Majeſty's ſhip Torbay.

19. At Madderty, Perthſhire, the Rev. Mr Andrew Ramſay, miniſter of that pariſh.

21. At Edinburgh, Sir Robert Pollock of Pollock, Bart.

22. At Stonbyres, Lanarkſhire, John Vere of Stonbyres, Eſq;

26. At his ſeat at Kirkleatham, in Yorkſhire, after a few hours illneſs, Sir Charles Turner, Bart. one of the repreſentatives in Parliament for the city of York, very much regretted by his family and conſtituents.

29. At the Louvre, in Paris, aged 66, M. D'Alembert, the celebrated philoſopher.

31. At Bath, the Right Hon. John Spencer, Earl Spencer.

Nov. 3. At Edinbugh, Mrs Helen Callander, wife of Mr John Campbell, writer to the ſignet, very much regretted.

5. At her houſe in Hope-park, Mrs Helen Hope, daughter of the late Sir Thomas Hope, Bart.

5. At Cliftonhill, near Briſtol, the Right Hon. Alexander Stewart, Lord Blantyre.

6. At Elgin, Captain James Stewart, late of the 71ſt regiment.

9. At Edinburgh, Mrs Elizabeth Carmichael, daughter of the late William Carmichael of Skirling, Eſq; and ſiſter of the Earl of Hyndford.

To our CORRESPONDENTS.

T. C.'s Letter on a ſubject which has excited much popular clamour, breathes a ſpirit of peace; and we think on that account merits a place. But we will take the liberty to abridge his remarks towards the concluſion, which appear unconnected with the main ſubject.—In this Number, Mr C. will find an article which, we believe, he formerly recommended to our notice.

We agree with AMNICOLA (why Amnicola?) in his ſenſible obſervations, which ſhall have a place in our next.

The IMPARTIAL OBSERVER'S Remarks in our next.

A. H.'s paper is rather tedious and dry on a very dry ſubject.

The Ode on a Young Nobleman's Birth-day is juſt received.